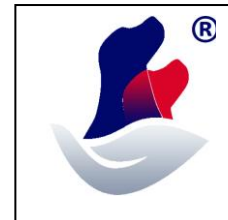


Rules for 'Scentwork UK –On-Line' Starters Scent Hider Competitors.



General

- 1) You can enter both Scent Hider and Home Alone Categories. You may mix and match the Categories in consecutive trials but may not enter both Categories in the same trial.
- 2) Each Category has a separate League and you will be scored in both according to which Category you enter.
- 3) After you have qualified at 10 trials in each Category at any particular Level, you must move up a Level.
- 4) However, if you wish to move up before qualifying as above, you must have qualified in your present Level at least 6 times and at least 3 of these must be in the Home Alone Category.
- 5) 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 or if moving up a Level early 4, 1, 1 or 3, 2, 1 etc
- 6) 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 providing you have not qualified out.
- 7) It is recommended that you leave 3 days in-between trials to prevent contamination.
- 8) It is recommended that you don't practice 3 days before the trial owing to 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 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 dog maybe worked on a 12ft line in the exterior searches for reasons of safety.

Criteria for each search.

There are 4 searches:

- 1) Table & chairs or 'House Hold items'
- 2) Kitchen Cabinets
- 3) Exterior Search
- 4) Vehicle/Wall or Fence.

Tables & Chairs There will be a minimum of 4 chairs and one table. Chairs can be arranged in either a circular pattern or two can be placed next to one another side by side on either side of the table. (see picture gallery) The 'scented' article can either be hidden under one of the chairs or on a table leg. The competitor must state which chair or which table leg the 'scented' article has been hidden.

House hold Search The area must be a minimum of 9ft x 9ft (3m x 3m) and contain 10 household items. (see list of suitable items on 'Instructions for Scent Hiders') The items should be placed approximately 18" (45cm) apart.

Vehicle 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 are in view. The 'scented article' must not be hidden in the exhaust, petrol cap, mud flaps, tyre tread, wheel arch's or number plate. Suitable hiding places can be seen in the 'picture gallery'.

Wall/Fence Search- The wall/fence must be at least 5m in length with at least 8 potential hiding places. Items can be placed at the bottom of the fence/wall if 8 potential hiding places cannot be found.

Kitchen Cabinets – The kitchen cabinet search must include at least 8 potential hiding places and may include a door. If draws are part of the search each draw can be counted as a hiding place. The camera can show the cabinets/draws in a continuous row or include all sides of the kitchen.

Exterior Search The outside area can consist of any material. The area must be at least 3m x 3m in size. The search must contain 10 exterior items and the list of suitable items can be found on the 'Instructions for Scent Hider' guide.

Marking System

One 'scent article' per search.

All 4 'Finds' must be found to qualify

Marks 15 points for each 'Find', 10 marks for handling.

In the vehicle/ wall/fence and kitchen cabinet searches the dog must indicate within 6" (15cm) of the 'scented' article in order to pass. In the 'Household' & 'Exterior' search the competitor may have to 'call' the correct item if it isn't clear to the judge/TM.

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

	<i>Awarded</i>	<i>Deductions</i>
A - 5 points (Indication)	Dog staying at source (marks for duration of indication of up to 3 seconds) Dog precisely at source Clear indication that observer could recognise	Dog not quite at source deduct approximately 1 mark per inch No obvious indication
B-3 Points (Team Work)	Helping the dog when necessary Trusting the dog	Dog ignoring handler when attempting to direct dog back Pulling dog away Getting in Dog's way Not recognising dog is on odour overuse of verbal corrections leash being used in a corrective manner
C-2 Points (General)	Dog understanding their job/eagerness to search Distance Handling Systematic area coverage.	Dogs swallowing articles. Trashing & biting, fouling area, dog spending a lot of time not searching (Basically not interested)

Points awarded for league

1st – 10 points

2nd – 8 points

3rd – 6 points

4th – 4th points

C/S – 2 points

On the Day

1. Please prepare the 4 search areas well in advanced before your time slot. If the tables and chairs are close to a wall move them to the centre if possible. Position 10 'Exterior' & Household' items, if you plan to do the 'Exterior' & 'Household' searches, in the area approximately 8" 45cm apart.
2. If you cannot set up 'all' 4 areas, owing the space limitations, contact the judge/TM and they will give you two time slots with a 15-30 minute interval.
3. It is important that you read through the 'Scent Hiders' guidelines so that the scent hider is familiar with what they are to do.
4. Plan where you will position the camera for every search so that everything can be seen. If using a tri-pod place sticky tape markers on the floor for each search. (see picture) If using a chair, (instead of a Tri-Pod')set-up a chair for every search area beforehand;

checking 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. Providing the judge/trials manager with pictures before the trial would be very useful.**

5. 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 and infrequent it would help if you practiced this firstly.
6. If there is a break in transmission the judge will ask you to either start the search again or ask you to point at where your dog indicated.
7. The competitor must let the 'scent' hider know from which direction they will start the search from.
8. The competitor must enter the search site with their dog on a leash.
9. The competitor can work their dog on a line for both the exterior searches for safety reasons.
10. The competitor should only enter the search site when the 'scent' hider instructs them to do so.
11. The competitor should start at least 5ft (1.5m) from the first item to be searched and start when the judge has instructed the 'scent' hider to do so.
12. When the alert is called the judge will tell the competitor if they are correct or not and the test will then end.
13. Please be aware of the camera in order not to block the judge's view.
14. The judge may ask for clarification and the competitor should do this by either placing their hand on the chair or point as in the kitchen cabinets, fence and wall search.

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 re-used 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.