



**Scentwork UK**

Guidelines for Level 2 Trials



## **The Test involves 4 timed searches**

- 1) The dog to find one scented article on one of 8 chairs arranged around 2-4 tables and one scented article around the perimeter of the room of the same scent. Total 2 finds of the same odour.
- 2) The dog to find two scented articles, of the same scent, hidden amongst 10-15 large judges items brought by the judge in a 'marked out' outdoor area approximately 20 x 20m in size. The area can be of any shape.
- 3) The dog to find two scented articles of the same scent hidden on one of the following:
  - The exterior of two of three cars/ vans
  - On a wall approximately 15m in length
  - One on a vehicle and one on a wall approximately 10m in length.
  - One on one of two vehicles and the other on a 5m wall.
- 4) The dog to find two scented articles, of the same scent, 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 5 minutes.

## **Marking System**

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

The team must find 6 out of 8 scented articles to pass the overall test.

Allocation of marks – 10 points for the handler calling the 'Alert/Find' correctly for each scented article and 5 points if no deductions are made.

If the handler fails to find both scented articles in 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 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> 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 6 out of 8 scented articles indicating using either an 'active' or 'passive' indication. (see notes on p9 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 will 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 time for each exercise is 5 minutes.

The handler is given the option to have a 30 second warning before the 5 minute time is up.

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

The clock will be stopped when the handler calls the first alert correctly and the competitor may leave the search area to reward the dog.

In the **Boxes & Luggage, Tables & Chairs and Exterior Searches** - The item will be removed from the search area and the stop watch will be started again when the handler resumes the search.

**Vehicle/Wall Search** - The clock will be stopped when the competitor calls the first alert correct and the competitor can leave the search area to reward the dog. The vehicle or 'scented article' hidden on the wall will not be removed but the stop watch will be started again when the handler resumes the search.

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

If 3 vehicles, 1 vehicle and a 10m wall or 2 vehicles and a 5m wall are used, the item will not be removed but the clock will be stopped and the handler may still leave the search area to reward their dog.

If a 15m wall is used the clock will be stopped after the 'Find' so that the handler can leave the search area to reward their dog.

In the event of an incorrect 'alert' the competitor will be told at the time and asked to resume the search to find a 'scented article'. The handler and dog team, can search either or both areas again irrespective of where the previous 'false' alert occurred. On the success of finding a 'Scented article' the competitor will not be allowed to search for the second scented article but the competitor will gain enough marks to pass overall providing six scented articles have been found in total.

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 articles.

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 at least 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.

In the vehicle search and 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

The judge should bear in mind the Level at which the dogs are being tested as to how 'deeply' the scented articles should be hidden.

In the container search the boxes should be prepared by placing a scented article under one of the flaps at the bottom of the box and then turning the box over. *See photo below*

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

The time for each exercise is 5 minutes.

## Judges Deductions

Deduction Reason	Points
Handler Pulling dog away from Article (see definitions)	.25
Dog Continuing to return to found Article ( <b>L3 and above</b> )	.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 ( <b>reward purposes and to reset dog allowed</b> )	.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 ( <b>food and Toys</b> )	4.70
Dog Scratching Vehicle and causing Damage	5.00
Dog fouling in Search Area	5.00
Dog Continuing to Foul in Search Area ( <b>Eliminated for that search only</b> )	Eliminated
Dog Continuing to Trash Article ( <b>Eliminated for that search only</b> )	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 p9) 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 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 & perimeter.

The test will be conducted indoors.

There will be one scented article hidden on an item around the perimeter and another under one of the chairs amongst the table & Chairs.

The competitor can decide whether to search the perimeter or the tables & chairs first.

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

Marks will not be lost if the dog moves from one area to another without first finding and completing either the 'perimeter' or 'table & chairs' search areas.

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 and items may be placed around the perimeter as suitable places to hide the second scented article.

## 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.

There should be between 10-15 items. The items should be supplied by the judge and of a size ideally that the dog cannot pick up and retrieve. The items must not contain other materials or items such as litter, rope, hessian packaging or anything else that could become a 'scent' distraction to the dog.

## 3) Vehicle Search or wall search

To find two scented articles on either:

- 1) The exterior of two of three vehicles.
- 2) Along a wall search approximately 15m in length
- 3) One on 1 vehicle and one on a wall approximately 10m in length.
- 4) One on one of two vehicles and the other on a wall approximately 5m in length.

The use of any vehicles is acceptable and should be cleaned prior to the test. The search vehicles should not contain any other dogs or food.

The vehicles should be parked in a safe area that allows the team easy access to all three vehicles. Ideally the area should be fenced off with the vehicles parked well away from kerbs and verges.



The two scented articles should be hidden on two of the three vehicles and not both on the same one.

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.

The judge may or may not decide where the competitor should start the test. The judge will ask the handler when he/she is ready and the stop watch will be started as soon as the dog passes through the marker cones. The stop watch will be stopped after the handler has called the first alert correctly and the handler can leave the search area to reward their dog. The vehicle will not be removed from the search area when the handler resumes the search for the second scented article.

#### 4) Container Search

To be tested indoors. The room should be as free from other room clutter as possible. There should be a mixture of approximately 50/50 10-15 boxes and luggage. One of the scented article should be placed in an item of luggage and the other under the flap of a box.

The luggage shouldn't be padded with anything other than newspaper or bubble wrap. The scented article should be fairly accessible to the dog but placed in a way to prevent retrieving and from the handler's sight. Ideal areas would be around handle areas and within zipped up pockets on luggage.

Boxes should be prepared in the following way: The scented article should be placed just in the seam then be 'over turned' (see pictures below) All the other decoy boxes in the search should be upturned as well.





### 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 expressing 'any' non- destructive behaviour. (see definition of trashing p6). Acceptable indications can include: freeze, stare, sit, down, lick, paw touch, nibbling, nose prod and barking.

**Eligibility for Entry** - Open to teams that have qualified at level 1.

Not open to teams who have gained 20 points in Level 2 or have qualified in level 3 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 2 they can no longer stay in level 2 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 article strength and its location. This dog is not to be owned by anyone entered in the trial. . When a 'white dog' isn't 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 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.

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

**Calling the 'Alert/Find'** – The handler should notify the judge verbally when he/she thinks their dog has found an article.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 8 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.