



**Scentwork UK**

Guidelines for Level 7 Trials



## The Test involves 3 timed searches

1. The dog to find 9 out of 12 scented articles hidden within 3 search areas, two of which will be interior and one exterior.
2. Target scents will be cloves, gun oil and truffle oil.
3. Each search area will contain one 'unscented' decoy article (see guidelines)
4. In both the 'interior' searches the judge will allocate 1 minute per scented article. In the 'exterior search' the time allowed will be determined by how many vehicles will be searched (see below – Vehicle Search).
5. The handler will **NOT** know how many scented articles per area and how much time they have.

## Marking System

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10 points for each scented item found

**120 marks**

10 'Bonus points' will be available per search area. These are for finding all the scented items in that search area within the time.

**30 marks** allocated

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**Total 150**

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Up to 5 Marks will be deducted for:

- Fouling in any of the search areas and 5 marks for each fouling offence
- Feeding and rewarding in the search area, verbal rewards are acceptable ○
- Swallowing articles

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Up to 2 Marks will be deducted for:

- Minor trashing of the items
- Moving or touching items without permission
- Re-tasking the dog to search/indicate again, after calling the alert, if the judges asks "where?"

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Minor marks (1 point and less) will be deducted for: the handler pulling the dog away from the hidden scent, the handler getting in the dogs way, lack of



systematic coverage of the search area, the dog spending a lot of time not searching the items under test, over use of verbal corrections.

**Please note that the above deductions are the only deductions that can be used when judging a L5-8 trial**

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- **Disqualification:** more than 3 false alerts, including those called on the 'unscented' decoys, throughout the 3 search areas.
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**Pass Mark 90**

**In order to qualify, competitors must:**

- (1) find a minimum of 9 articles and
- (2) have a minimum of 90 marks **after any deductions**

Certificates of merit will be awarded to those that pass and in addition there will be rosettes from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> awarded to those with the highest marks. In the event of a tie the team with the fewer false alerts will be the winner. If there is still a tie the team with the fastest time will be the winner.

## **General Guidelines**

The team to find 9 out of 12 scented articles within 3 search areas indicating using either an 'active' or 'passive' indication.

The Searches can run in any order.

There will be a draw for each of the tests to determine the running order of the teams.

The search areas will be clearly identified by flags, cones, tape or other identifiers marking the perimeter of the search area. The hides will only be within the designated search area. However, dogs and handlers may move outside of those areas as part of their search.

The dogs can be worked 'on or off' leash and will be decided by the handler.

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

The judge will ask the handler when he/she is ready and as soon as the dog's nose passes the start markers the steward will start the stop watch.

Handlers may choose to work the search area from any angle after the dog has crossed the designated start markers.



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 each 'Alert' is correct or not and the handler and dog team will then continue the search.

The handlers can carry rewards with them during the search but must not reward, other than a verbal reward, within the search area.

The competitor can leave the search area to reward their dog as many times as they wish but the clock will not be stopped.

The competitor will be told after the search how many scented articles were found and how many deductions were lost. 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 will decide how many scented articles should be hidden per search area.

Scented articles in the 'Exterior search' should be hidden at least 4ft (120cm) from each other.

The judge will hold a briefing before each search showing the competitors the area/s to be searched, what is not to be searched and what items can be moved.

The judge should consider safety especially if using any electrical appliances or heaters when choosing suitable places to hide the scented articles. The judge can remove any items deemed unsafe from any of the three search sites.

Items added to the search areas may or may not be used as places to hide the scented articles.

Articles scented may consist of any material which has been shown to be absorbent to the scent and small enough to be concealed from the handler. Suggested articles are pipe cleaners, hair ties, pieces of wool, wood (drink stirrers), string, velcro strips or pads as well as small pieces of fabric. Scented pieces of material can firstly be placed into a small container although a small section of the material must be exposed.

Scented articles should be placed in the search areas at least 5-minutes before the first competitor runs.

One 'unscented' decoy article will be added to each search area. Decoy 'unscented' articles can be of any material and a small section may be visible to the handler.



If a handler calls the alert/find on a previously found article no marks will be lost and neither will this result in a 'false alert'.

The scented articles must be hidden from view and secured to prevent retrieving as far as possible.

The judge may stop the search in the event of extreme trashing of items, damage to vehicles, and the dog continually leaving the search area, however the dog and handler team will be allowed to continue to search the other search areas.

Every effort will be made to use a 'white dog' prior to testing to check the scent strength and its location. 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.

## **1) Interior Searches**

These are typically room-sized environments such as a kitchen, toilets, committee rooms, barns or warehouse space. A search may include several rooms which must be sectioned off using cones, rope or hazard tape.

The search rooms may include items added by the judge as potential search items. The judge must bear in mind safety and workability of the search areas and the judge can remove items deemed not safe.

Scented articles can be placed just inside filing cabinets, cupboards, drawers, behind closed doors, underneath window ledges, dado rails or along skirting boards but must be hidden from view.

The judge should bear in mind, when hiding the scented articles, whether the competing dogs are elderly, small, if any of the dogs have injuries as well as safety.

## **2) Exterior Search**

The test must be conducted outdoors. Example of outside areas would be car park areas, playing fields, car park lay-bys and courtyards.

The ground surface can consist of materials such as grass, gravel, tarmac, artificial grass/fabric.

The search areas will be clearly identified by flags, cones, tape or other identifiers marking the perimeter of the search area.

Scented articles should be hidden at least 4ft (120cm) from each other.

The scented articles will only be hidden within the designated search area. However, dogs and handlers may move outside of those areas as part of their search.



One or two vehicles can be parked within the search area and may or may not be used as a hiding place. The judge should allow extra time by adding one minute per vehicle.

Only the exterior of the vehicle is to be searched and the scented article may be hidden behind a closed door. It is permissible to hide more than one scented article on the same vehicle.

Additional Items can be added and used as possible search sites or removed if deemed unsuitable or unsafe by either the judge or the trials manager.

Natural items such as trees, fencing, walls, and drainpipes are acceptable hiding places although hiding under gravel, soil, grass and similar terrain is not allowed.

The judge should bear in mind whether the competing dogs are elderly, small, if any of the dogs have injuries as well as safety when hiding the scented articles.

If a dog is interfered with by another dog entering the search area, the judge should stop the search and re-start when they feel the search site is safe again to do so. In exceptional circumstances the team will be allowed a re-run.

### **Notes:**

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

**White Dog** – An experienced dog, not entered in the trial, allowed to do a 'pre-run' to test article strength and its location. This dog is not to be owned by anyone entered in the trial.

**Trashing & Fouling** - (Please read indication description above) 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 a fouling incident, 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.

**Calling the 'Alert/Find'** – Before the test begins the handler should inform the judge how s/he will call the 'Alert/Find', either verbally or a hand signal, when he/she thinks their dog has found an article.

**Rewards:** the competitor is allowed to reward their dog ONLY once they have passed outside of the search area.

**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.

**Replacement of scented articles.** – It will be decided by the judge to replace scented articles for the following reasons: if it has is retrieved, mouthed or damaged in any way.



**Number of dogs entered at a L7 trial.** A competitor may not enter more than one dog in the same level at a L7 trial.

**Entering more than one Level at a trial** – A dog can only be entered in one Level at a trial.

**Eligibility for entry** - Open to teams that have qualified at level 6.

Not open to teams who have gained 30 points in Level 7 or have qualified in level 8.

Once a dog & handler team have gained their 'Ex' title in level 7 they can no longer stay in level 7 unless they run NFC.

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

**Scented articles** – It is the trial organiser's responsibility to supply the scented articles.

- To prepare Clove scented articles, place 10/12 dried cloves in a clean, empty airtight jar. Place 6/8 articles, see above for suitable items, 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.
- The Gun oil should be prepared in the following way. The Gun Oil recommended for use is 'Napiers Gun oil'. Ensure you purchase the gun oil lubricant rather than the gun oil cleaners and sprays. Place one droplet of the 'Gun oil' onto each article (see articles recommended for use above), and then place into a clean jar. Leave the lid off for a couple of hours to allow any residue fumes to escape. The scented articles will be ready for use after 2 days and for up to 6 weeks.
- To prepare the 'truffle oil' – place three droplet onto a scented pad, place in a lidded jar with 6/8 articles (see above) to be scented and leave for 2 days. Truffle oil recommended is 'English Truffle Oil' which can be purchased from the following supplier <https://trufflehunter.co.uk/product-category/truffle-oil/>