



**Scentwork UK**

Guidelines for Level 4 Trials



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

- 1) The dog to find two articles of a different scent that have been hidden amongst a search area containing 2/4 tables & 8 chairs and a perimeter that contains items. Total 2 finds
- 2) The dog to find two articles of a different scent hidden amongst 10-15 large items, brought by the judge, in a 'marked out' outdoor area approximately 6 x 6m in size. The area can be of any shape.
- 3) The dog to find two articles of a different scent indoors amongst 10-15 containers.
- 4) The dog to find two scented articles of a different scent hidden on one of the following:
  - 3 vehicles
  - A wall approximately 25m in length with 8 exterior items at the base.
  - 2 vehicles plus a 15m wall with 4 exterior items at the base.
  - 1 vehicles plus a 20m wall with 6 items at the base.

In each search area, once the first 'scented article' has been found it shall be left in situ whilst the dog searches for the second. Marks will be lost for the dog continuing to return to the first scent

There will be a draw for each of the tests to determine the running order of the teams.. The length of time allowed for each search will be 5 minutes.

Competitors can choose to end any search before the 5 minutes is up, even if both scented items weren't found. The time recorded for the search will be the time the competitor ended the search. The competitor can continue to work the other three searches and can still pass providing 6 out of 8 scented articles have been found in total.

## **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 indication definition)

Competitors will run in draw order. The dog can be worked on or off lead to be decided by the handler. The handler will not be penalised for doing part of the test 'on' and the other part, 'off' lead.

For each test there will be a start point marked with a marker

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

When the handler thinks the dog has found a scented article the handler should call the 'alert'. The 'stop clock' **will not** be stopped and the scented article and item will not be removed from the search area. The judge will tell the handler at the time if this is correct or not and the handler and dog team can continue the search. When the handler calls the second alert the test will then finish regardless of the second alert being correct or not.

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

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 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. 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.



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 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

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

The time limit for each exercise is 5 minutes.



## Judges Deductions

Deduction Reason	Up to Points
1. Handler Pulling dog away from Article (see definitions)	.25
2. Dog Continuing to return to found Article (Returns more than once) <b>(L3 and L4)</b>	.25
3. Dog Not Searching Under Test	.35
4. Handler getting in dog's way	.35
5. Dog not quite at source ( See definitions)	.40
6. Dog pulling out, dropping or retrieving the scented article (see definitions)	.50
7. Handler with Tight Lead (see definitions)	.50
8. Dog Leaving Search Area and not responding to handlers recall <b>(reward purposes and to reset dog allowed)</b>	.50
9. Overuse of Verbal Corrections	.90
10. Dog Trashing Article (see definitions)	1.00
11. Re-tasking the dog to search/indicate again, after calling the alert, if the judge asks "where?"	2.00
12. Handler Touching Items/Vehicle/Wall	2.50
13. Handler using lead/harness in corrective manner	2.60
14. Dog Swallowing Article	3.50
15. Handler Rewarding Dog in Search Area <b>(food and toys)</b>	4.70
16. Dog Scratching Vehicle and causing Damage	5.00
17. Dog fouling in Search Area	5.00
18. Punitive correction or harsh handling of the dog	5.00
19. Dog Continuing to Foul in Search Area <b>(Eliminated for that search only)</b>	Eliminated
20. Dog Continuing to Trash Article <b>(Eliminated for that search only)</b>	Eliminated
21. 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.

Actual value of each deduction to be determined by the judge up to the maximum points specified in the table above.

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**- Marks will be lost if it is clear to the judge that the dog has detected the odour and the handler 'pulls the dog away'.

**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***

**Level 3 & 4:** A deduction of 0.40 **marks** 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. In the vehicle/wall search only, the indication can be up to 6 inches from the source, in any direction, for the find to be awarded; if the indication is further than 6 inches from source in the vehicle/wall search this will be a wrong alert and no points will be awarded for that find. Further deductions can be made for other aspects of the search. In level 3 and 4 the scent on the perimeter can be in the seam of a cupboard door/drawer rather than on an item.

**Trashing & Fouling** - (Please read indication description in Notes on page 9) 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 & perimeter.**

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

There will be two scented articles, of a different scent, hidden around the tables & chairs and perimeter area. One of the scents may be hidden within the seam area of a filing cabinet, cupboard, drawer or closed door.

The tables and chairs can be arranged in any way although a square pattern is preferred and items may be placed around the perimeter at suitable places to hide the scented articles.

The search area will contain up to two 'distraction scents' which have been placed in other items (see notes section below).

## **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 that the dog cannot pick up and retrieve although retrieving items shouldn't be penalised.





At least two of the items should contain 'distraction scents' and may contain other materials such as litter, rope or hessian packaging. The two 'scented articles' must not be placed in or amongst any of the items that contain a 'distraction scent'.

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

### 3) Vehicle and wall Search

To find two scented article on the exterior of 1 or 2 of 3 vehicles, a wall 25m approximately in length with 8 items at the base, 2 vehicles and a wall of 15m in length with 4 items at the base or 1 vehicle and a wall 20m in length with 6 items at the base. .

The use of any vehicle is acceptable and should be cleaned prior to the test. The search vehicles should not contain any other dogs or food. However 'dog odour' is acceptable as a 'distraction scent'

The vehicles should be parked in a safe area that allows the team easy access to all three vehicles. At least one of the vehicles should be parked close to a verge or grass area providing 'distracting scents'.

- 1) The two scented articles can either be hidden on two separate vehicles or both on the same one.
- 2) The two scented articles can either be hidden on the wall, approximately 25m in length, both on items at the base of the wall or one on each.
- 3) If two vehicles and a 15m wall are used 4 exterior items must be placed at the base of the wall. The scented articles can be hidden either on the wall, or on two of the exterior items, or the exterior of either one or both of the vehicles or a combination of one on a vehicle, wall or on one of the items at the base.
- 4) If one vehicle and a 20m wall are used 6 exterior items must be placed at the base of the wall. The scented articles can be hidden either on the wall, or on/in two of the exterior items, or the exterior of the vehicle, or a combination of the vehicle, wall or on one of the items at the base.

The scented articles should be positioned 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 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 judge may or may not decide where the competitor should start the test. Once the handler thinks the dog has found a 'scented article' the handler must call the alert and will be told by the judge at the time if this is correct or not. Any excessive scratching at the paintwork should be stopped by the judge immediately.



## 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 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.

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.



The two scented articles can be hidden in **either** two boxes, two items of luggage or one piece of luggage and one box but not both in the same one.

Up to two 'distraction scents' should have been placed in either two boxes, two pieces of luggage or one of each. (see notes section below).

Once the handler thinks the dog has found a 'scented article' the handler must call the alert and will be told by the judge at the time if this is correct or not. The handler must then resume the search.



## Notes:

**Eligibility for entry** - Open to teams that have qualified at level 3.

Not open to teams who have gained 20 points in Level 4 or have qualified in level 5

Once a dog & handler team have gained their 'Ex' title in level 4 they can no longer stay in level 4 unless they run NFC.

**Indication** - The dog can indicate to the handler by expressing 'any' non-destructive behaviour. (see definition of trashing, page 5). Acceptable indications can include: freeze, stare, sit, down, lick, paw touch, nibbling, nose prod and barking.

**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.

**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** -All dogs must wear either a collar or harness whilst under test. Slip leads or a half-check collar are permitted but handling marks will be deducted if used in a corrective manner. Dogs can not wear a 'halti' or any other head collar whilst working. 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.



**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 & Gun Oil'. 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.
- 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 'Gun oil' onto each article, to be scented, which is approximately 3 x 3cm in size. Leave the lid off for a couple of hours for the fumes to disperse before sealing the lid. The scented articles are then ready to use after 2 days.

## Distraction Scents

All search elements, except for the vehicle search, should include 2 'distraction' scents.

The 'distraction' scents must include two of the following:

1. ***American Peppermint extract (Dr Oetker)***
2. ***Coffee***
3. ***Shampoo***
4. ***Almond or vanilla extract (Dr Oetker)***
5. ***Tea (English Breakfast) either tea bags or 'loose leaf'***
6. ***Used Dog towelling or bedding (Dog Odour)***



## Preparation of 1-4 distractions

Scent up a clean unused cotton wool pad, or polycotton or polyamide swabs (pieces of cut up sock or popsock), or 'velcro' with one of the 'distraction' scents the day before the trial and place in a sealed plastic container or lidded glass jar. For powders (coffee & loose-leaf tea), dampen the cotton wool pad, swab, or 'velcro' and sprinkle a small amount of the powdered distraction scent to the pad. Allow the pad to partially dry (approx 1 hour) before placing into a sealed lidded plastic container or glass jar.

Tea bags are acceptable and if using loose leaf prepare as above.

4cm x 4cm sections of dog bedding or towelling can be cut up or alternately wrap an unused cotton wool pad, swab or velcro in a used towel or bedding for at least 24 hrs before placing into a sealed plastic container or lidded glass jar.

## Notes

It will be the trials manager's responsibility to prepare and take the 'distraction scents' along to the trial.

**Note:** It is recommended that at least 4 'distraction' scents are taken along to the trial in case any are rejected for any health reasons connected with any competitor's dog.

The judge will decide and tell the competitors beforehand as to which 'distraction scents' they plan to use.

**Note:** It will be the competitor's responsibility to say whether their dog has any aversion towards the suggested distraction scents so that the judge can make any changes if necessary. It will be at the judge's decision to decide whether to use a different distraction scent or not.

The 'distraction' scents should be used as a single odour and not in a combination of another distraction scent.

The same two 'distraction' scents can be used in all three searches (vehicles except).

The 'distraction' scents should be placed in the search area at the same time as the 'Target Odours' and hidden from view. It is better if someone other than the judge hides the 'distraction' scents to prevent any possible contamination.

A 'distraction' scent must not be placed in the same item that contains the target odour.