

CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB®



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GUIDE FOR SCENT DETECTION

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document provides a guide for Clubs to support successful Scent Detection Trial. It is intended to supplement the Rules and Regulations. Clubs putting on trials are expected to be familiar with the Rules and Regulations.

2. PLANNING

- 2.1 Only CKC recognized Clubs may put on CKC Sanction matches and Scent trials (2.1.1).

3. SANCTION MATCHES

- 3.1 Clubs must hold a Sanction match before applying to hold an official sanctioned CKC scent detection trial. <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Files/Legal-Policy-and-Procedures/Policy-and-Procedures/Policy-Procedures-Manual-Chapter-6-ShowsAndTri.aspx>
- 3.2 The completed Sanction match application is sent to the Zone Director for approval <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Files/Forms/Shows-Trials/Event-and-Judges-Applications/Application-To-Hold-A-Sanction-Match-Form-No-151-0>
- 3.3 As of July 31, 2019, there are several applicant judges who need to judge a sanction match before they can become fully licensed and qualified. Approved Scent Detection Judges can be found in the CKC Judges Directory <https://www.ckc.ca/Events/Find-A-Judge/default.aspx>. You can see all of the details about the judge by clicking on their name. Judges that don't have anything listed for scent detection under "Qualifications" need to judge a sanction match and be observed by a CKC Scent Detection Council Zone representative before becoming licensed. <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Files/Legal-Policy-and-Procedures/Policy-and-Procedures/Policy-Procedures-Manual-Chapter-7-Judges.aspx>

4. SCENT DETECTION TRIALS

- 4.1 The completed **event application** needs to be submitted to the CKC 180 days before the planned date (2.2.1) [Event-Date-Application-Trials-Tests-Form-No-151](https://www.ckc.ca/en/Files/Forms/Shows-Trials/Event-and-Judges-Applications/Application-To-Hold-A-Sanction-Match-Form-No-151-0). Clubs should check the CKC Event Calendar to ensure that there are no other Scent Detection trials planned for the same dates in the same area. Currently, there are no mileage restrictions for Scent Detection but suggest that the restrictions for Obedience and Rally be used as a guide <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Files/Legal-Policy-and-Procedures/Policy-and-Procedures/Policy-Procedures-Manual-Chapter-6-ShowsAndTri.aspx>
- 4.2 Clubs must offer the Instinct and Novice classes at each trial (6.8.3).
- 4.3 Approved **Scent Detection Judges** can be found in the CKC Judges Directory <https://www.ckc.ca/Events/Find-A-Judge/default.aspx>. You can see all of the details about the judge by clicking on their name. Judges eligible to judge Scent Detection trials will have details of the classes they are approved to judge under the "Qualifications" section.

- 4.4 Discuss the judging rates and other expenses with the judge. If they agree to judge, complete the the Judging panel application <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Files/Forms/Shows-Trials/Event-and-Judges-Applications/Judging-Panel-Application-Specialty-Conformation-S>. Event application needs to be submitted to the CKC 120 days for the planned date (3.1.1).
- 4.5 Contract with a judge- Ensure a contract is confirmed as per 3.3.1.
- 4.6 The **trial officials** include the trial secretary and chair. The secretary need not be a Club member but must be a regular member of the CKC in good standing (2.5.2). Trial officials cannot handle a dog at any trial in they are acting as officials (2.5.3).

5. SELECTING TRIAL VENUES

- 5.1 Trial venues should have sufficient space and environments to offer container, interior and exterior searches. The space requirements for each component and level are referred to in each section of the rule book – Containers 9.5, Interior 9.6, Exterior 9.7.
- 5.2 The venue should have an area where odour can be stored outside of the staging and search areas and not contaminated the search area (9.3.8).
- 5.3 Ideally, the interior search area is indoors in an actual building. Rooms can be partitioned into more than one search area but the boundaries must be clearly defined (9.6.1). If a room is subdivided, only hides for the current level being judged should be placed to avoid conflict for the teams being judged.
- 5.4 Exterior search areas may be covered but should have no more than two walls (9.7.1).
- 5.5 A tent can be used for the interior searches provided it is enclosed and contains 4 walls. The use of a tent must be listed on the premium list
- 5.6 Whenever possible, the flow to and from the search area should allow for distance and even a visual barrier for teams. Scent detection can bring out prey drive and teams should maintain space when moving around.
- 5.7 It is most efficient to have one or two search areas aging while others are being searched. For example, an exterior search area can be set for small dogs and aging while containers and the interior search areas are searched. The containers and the interior search areas are set for the next height and aged while the exterior searches are run. The exterior hides are set for the next height and aged while the next height division searches containers and the interior search areas.
- 5.8 It is suggested that hides be set on or in objects that can be removed from a search area when the height division changes. This will minimize lingering odour.
- 5.9 If crating space is being considered for the trial, it must be out of sight and hearing of the search areas. Dogs barking in crates can disturb and interfere with the team searching.
- 5.10 Club to communicate with the judge(s) prior to the trial to discuss a site inspection and where possible consider a walk through prior to judging.

6. ODOURS

6.1 The following target odours in the form of essential oils are used in CKC Scent Detection:

| Level | Odours Used |
|-----------|--|
| Instinct | Wintergreen (W) Gaultharia procumbens |
| Novice | Wintergreen (W) Gaultharia procumbens |
| Open | Wintergreen (W) and/or Pine (P) Pinus sylvestris |
| Excellent | Wintergreen (W) and/or Pine (P) and/or Anise(A) Pimpinella anisum (not Star Anise, Illicium Verum) |
| Masters | Birch (B) (Betula lentum) and/or Anise (A) and/or Clove (CL) and/or Eugenia Caryophyllatta and/or Cypress (CY) Cupressus sempervirens |

6.2 Not all essential oil suppliers provide the same consistency and purity of oils. If the Club is providing the oils for the trial, the following suppliers are recommended:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| K9 Sports Lines | http://www.k9sportslines.com/scent-detection.html |
| NACSW providers | http://www.nacsw.net/target-odors/target-odor-suppliers |

6.3 Many judges will want to be responsible for preparing their own Q-tips or cotton balls (scent aids). Clarify this with the judge prior to the trial (9.3.6). If the Club is supplying the odour and preparing the scent aids, it is recommended that this be done by a person experienced in handling the oils and preparing scent aids.

6.4 Swabs with paper ends are cut in half and one drop of oil is applied directly to the swab or ball to create a scent aid. These are then placed in a glass jar with a lid and left to stand for at least 24 hours prior to the trial. The length of time that the aids stand in the jar should be discussed with the judge since they may have preferences for this. (9.3.3).

6.5 The proper and careful handling of scent aids to prevent unwanted contamination is referred to as "odour hygiene" <https://nosework.huntersheart.com/2017/10/05/odour-hygiene-briefing-for-nosework-competitions/> Clubs should prepare enough aids so they can replace the them for each class they are offering as follows:

| Level | Odours Used |
|-----------|---|
| Instinct | 1 Wintergreen (W) |
| Novice | 1 Wintergreen (W) for each component (3) |
| Open | 1 Wintergreen (W) for each component (3) 1 Pine (P) for each component (3) |
| Excellent | 1 Wintergreen (W) for each component and 2 interiors (4) 1 Pine (P) for each component and 2 interiors (4) 1 Anise (A) for each component and 2 interiors (4) |

| Level | Odours Used |
|--------|--|
| Master | 1 Birch (B) for up to 3 hides per component and up to 3 interiors (9) 1 Anise (A) for up to 3 hides per component and up to 3 interiors (9) 1 Clove (CL) for up to 3 hides per component and up to 3 interiors (9) 1 Cypress (CY) for up to 3 hides per component and up to 3 interiors (9) |

7. TRIAL PREPARATIONS

7.1 Roles & Responsibilities

7.1.1 The following roles are required and suggested for a Scent Detection Trial:

- (a) **Trial chair:** Preferably, this is someone who has scent trial experience as a judge, trial chair and/or participant. The Chair must be in good standing with the CKC but need not be a member of the CKC (2.5.1). The Trial Chair is like the trial project manager and usually arranges for the venue, judges, volunteers and is in charge of trial logistics including supplies. The Chair may also be the Secretary. They may not handle a dog at a trial in which they are acting as an official (2.5.3).

The **Chair** should conduct a handlers briefing that explains the location of dog and human bathrooms, off-limit areas due to search area line of sight (i.e. where handlers could see a search area), spectator areas and rules, and any other rules related to a particular venue.

- (b) **Trial Secretary:** The Trial Secretary is responsible for trial paperwork (i.e. event application, judging panel application, judging contract, premium list, managing entries, trial paperwork and submitting the paperwork to the CKC). The secretary must be a member in good standing with the CKC (2.5.3). They may not handle a dog at a trial in which they are acting as an official (2.5.3).
- (c) **Judge (11):** Judges may not enter during the day of a trial in which they are officiating (3.5.1). They may not judge family members (3.5.2). The Judge is responsible for designing each search including hide locations. The Judge does not handle the scent aids, vessels or any object that may have had odour on it; this is the responsibility of the Hide Steward. Judges also determine the maximum allowable time for each search and communicates this to the secretary, timer and exhibitors.

The Judge observes the Demo Dog if one is available. The Demo Dog should be one that is capable of running at the level being tested but ideally, is not too advanced for the level. If the Demo dog demonstrates that the search location is too difficult for the level being judged, the Judge should consider relocating the hide to a more suitable location (9.2.1).

The Judge conducts short handlers' briefings prior to each class after the Demo dog has been run. These are done in view of the search area after the hides have been set (11.5). The Judge will explain whether a search can be run on or off-leash, how many hides there are, depending on the level and the maximum time. Judges need not rehash the rules since handlers should be familiar with them.

The responsibilities of the Judge during the search are described in sections 11.6 through 11.15 of the rule book.

- (d) **Timer (8.1):** The Timer keeps track of the time it takes the team to complete the search. The search time ends with the handler calls “Alert”, “Finish” or “Clear”, depending on the component and level/class. They know the maximum search time as set by the judge and let the team and judge know when the maximum allowable time has been met. They provide a 30 second warning to the team (i.e. when 30 seconds are left in the search).
- (e) **Hide Steward (8.2):** The Hide Steward handles the scent aids and scent vessels and places them as instructed by the Judge. The Hide Steward is the **ONLY** person that handles scent vessels or any containers containing scent at a trial. Ideally, the Hide Steward has experience handling odour and understands how to prevent other items in the search area from becoming contaminated.

A container with a hide inside is referred to as being “hot”. The Hide Steward is the only person to move a hot container back to its original location, should it get moved during a search. They are also the only person who can wipe saliva from a hot box or near a hide location. If something needs to be wiped, a new paper towel should be used and disposed of in location where it does not distract working teams.

Should a hide vessel become dislodged, the Hide Steward is the only person to touch and replace the hide. The Hide Steward is also responsible for removing hides after the searches are completed.

- (f) **Cold Box Setter:** Containers that do not contain a hide are referred to as “cold”. The Cold Box Handler is required for container searches. This person moves cold containers back to their original locations, should they get moved during a search. They can also the wipe saliva from a cold boxes. Paper towels should NOT be shared with the Hide Steward.

This job can be done by the judge as well since they have not handled odour during a trial.

- (g) **Check in:** The Club should have someone checking in exhibitors as they arrive. Waivers should be signed for those that entered online or failed to provide one with their entry.
- (h) **Gate (entering search area):** The Club should have someone responsible for leading teams from a staging area into the search area. This person can greet each participant as they enter the area. They can remind the participant of the number of hides in the search area and the time limit. They will ask each participant if they have any questions and then tell them when they are cleared to begin.
- (i) **Gate (leaving search area):** If returning to the participant parking/crating area after a search is not a simple and direct path then additional stewards could be needed to keep participants from getting lost or wandering into off limits areas.

8. RIBBONS

- 8.1 Dogs earning qualifying scores will receive ribbons (5.1.1). A qualifying run in each component is a separate qualifying score.
- 8.2 A qualifying score ribbon shall be dark green in colour and not be smaller than 5.08 cm (2") wide and 20.32 cm (8") in length (5.1.2). Some Clubs are providing rosettes when titles are earned. This is unofficial since the results have not yet gone to the CKC and been verified. These rosettes do not have to be the same colour as the qualifying ribbon.
- 8.3 Ensure that a sufficient number of ribbons and rosettes are ordered prior to the trial. A safe assumption is that each run will be a qualifying run.

9. FORMS & PAPERWORK

- 9.1 **Premium List (4.1):** This section specifies what information must be in the premium list. Several Clubs have put on trials and might be willing to share their premium to help other Clubs set up.

Clubs may choose to limit the number entries (4.1.7) in order to ensure that judging does not exceed 7 hours (4.3.3). This needs to be stated in the premium list.

Clubs must offer Instinct and Novice level classes (6.8.3).

- 9.2 **Entry form:** Section 4.2.3 describes the information that needs to appear in the catalogue. This information needs to be captured by the entry form. The entry form also needs to capture the class (i.e. Instinct, Novice, Open, Excellent, Master) as well as the component (i.e. Containers, Interior, Exterior).

A sample entry form is available at <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Files/Forms/Shows-Trials/Exhibitors/Scent-Detection-Official-Entry-Form>. Clubs may develop their own form but it must contain all of the same fields.

- 9.3 **Taking entries:** Clubs should be prepared to accept entries at the opening date and time specified in the premium list. Some Clubs take advantage of online entry services such as Dogshow.ca. The Trial Secretary should ensure that dogs entered meet the requirements specified by the CKC in terms of registration and age (6). Entry forms must be complete (6.2.1) and should be accompanied by the entry fee (6.3.2).

A dog may be entered only once in each class in each trial (6.1.8).

If the entry limit is reached, the Club may keep a wait list should space become available (6.1.13).

- 9.4 **Height divisions (6.8):** CKC Scent Detection trials use height divisions to equalize the efforts for dogs of differing sizes (6.8.1). The entry form must capture the dog's height division as follows:

Small: Dogs under 13" (33cm)

Medium: Dogs 13 inches (33 cm) and under 20 inches (50.8 cm)

Large: Dogs 20 inches (50.8 cm) and over

9.5 **Catalogue (4.2):** This section specifies what information must be in the catalogue. It includes information about the trial that can be copied from the premium list as well as information about each dog entered.

9.6 **Judge's Book:** The Judge's Book is used to record the Judge's decision about each run. A sample form is available at <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Files/Forms/Shows-Trials/Event-Supplies/Scent-Detection/152-36-70-Scent-Detection-Judges-Book>. Clubs may use their own form as long as it has the same format and information as the generic form. The Judge must sign each page of the book.

This form may be used in lieu of the Scoresheet found on the CKC website <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Files/Forms/Shows-Trials/Event-Supplies/Scent-Detection/152-36-51-Scent-Detection-Scoresheet> since it contains all of the necessary information.

9.7 **Plotting Forms:** The judge is responsible for completing the plotting forms. Plotting Forms: <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Files/Forms/Shows-Trials/Event-Supplies/Scent-Detection/151-36-70-Scent-Detection-Plotting-Form>

10. SUPPLIES

10.1 **Scents & odour kit (9.3):** This section describes what scents must be used and how they are handled and stored. The scents used are described in the odour section of this document.

The Club should have an odour kit available for handling odour and scent vessels. This kit should include nitrile gloves for the Hide Steward (8.2.2), supplies to help secure hides (e.g. painters or masking tape, Gorilla tape, earthquake putty) and tools to help place and remove hides (tweezers, hemostats, needle nose pliers).

10.2 **Scent Vessels (9.3.9):** The scented swabs or cotton balls are placed inside scent vessels so they don't come in direct contact with the environment. Scent vessels may not be glass. They can be any material and should allow the scent to escape into the search area. Possible scent vessels include:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Metal slide tins | Small hose or tubing | Straws | Plant picks |
| Plastic pill bottles | Lip balm tubes | Bag clips with slots | Plastic pipettes |
| Metal tea or spice infusers | | | |

Holes may have to be placed in some scent vessels to allow the scent to escape into the search area. Magnets may be used inside or outside of the scent vessel to help attach it to metal objects in the environment.

10.3 **Containers (9.5.1):** This section describes that type of containers that can be used for each level.

| Level | Containers |
|-----------|--|
| Instinct | 5 identical boxes at least 10" long by 8" wide, between 3" and 8" tall. |
| Novice | 10 identical boxes at least 10" long by 8" wide, between 3" and 8" tall. |
| Open | 15 various size and type |
| Excellent | 20 various size and type |
| Masters | 20 various size and type |
| Masters | 20 various size and type |

Possible containers include:

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| Cardboard boxes | Plastic bins | Tool boxes | Wicker baskets |
| Pails or buckets | Plastic flower pots | Backpacks | Luggage |
| Duffle bags | | | |

Airtight containers (e.g. plastic or rubber containers, metal tins, tool boxes, pails with lids) should have holes in them to allow odour to escape. Cardboard boxes have enough gaps to allow odour to escape without holes. Luggage, purses and backpacks should be made of materials that allow odour to escape or have the ability to be vented (e.g. have a zipper open).

Clear containers should have light paper or plastic crumpled inside to camouflage whether or not the scent or distraction is in the container. Containers should be large enough to prevent dogs from easily picking them up.

Surplus containers for replacement must be available should any of the containers become damaged or contaminated (9.5.1).

- 10.4 **Distractions (9.9):** This section describes the type of distractions that may be used. Distractions may be a toy, human or dog food or a human, depending on the level and class. In the container class, the distraction should be hidden in a container so the handler cannot tell if the dog is reacting to a distraction or odour.

In other classes, food distractions should be enclosed in a container to prevent dogs from consuming the distraction (9.9.3).

- 10.5 **Boundary markers (9.1.4):** The Club should mark the boundaries of search areas so it is clear to handlers. Boundaries can be marked with painters tape on the floor, fencing, gating or flagging tape. The start line for the search should be clearly marked for both the timer and the handler.

- 10.6 **Objects:** Clubs may consider adding objects to the interior and exterior search areas if the these areas don't have much in them. Some examples of search areas can be seen in the scent detection videos: <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Events/Overview-of-Events/Scent-Detection#Videos>

Having objects that can be picked up and removed from the search area can help keep the searches clear for dogs in each height division. For example, stools of differing heights can be used for each height division, eliminating the need to clean the location of a previous hide. This can help save time

It's suggested that items used in other sports (e.g. jumps, agility equipment, dumbbells, scent articles) not be used for hide placement. For dogs that take part in multiple sports including scent detection, lingering odour on one of these items could be distracting.

- 10.7 **Measuring device (9.8):** This section describes the use of a measuring device to confirm the height of the dog at the withers. Not all dogs need to be measured if they are obviously within the range of each height division.
- 10.8 **Cleaning supplies (9.4.10, 9.4.11):** Clubs need to have cleaning supplies available in the event of contamination by food or saliva (9.4.10) or if the hide needs to be relocated (9.4.11). The rules suggest using undiluted white vinegar to wipe the previous location of a hide, and enzymatic cleaner if a dog should eliminate in the search area.
- 10.9 **Demo Dog (9.2.1):** This section describes the provision and use of a demo dog to evaluate the difficulty of the hides. Ideally, the Demo Dog is working at the same level as the class being judged. Dogs that have a lot of experience may not provide a true indication of the difficulty of the hides for less experienced dogs.
- 10.10 **Timing Devices** Two stopwatches should be available; one primary and one backup.

11 RUNNING THE TRIAL

- (a) Scheduling
- (b) Search area set up - container and any props needed for exterior and interior.
Discuss prop options with judge.
- (c) Mark location of containers
- (d) Handler parking and staging (9.2.2)
- (e) Handler briefing and walk through
- (f) Team flow (staging > search area/s > back to parking lot)
- (g) Crating
- (h) Demo dog
- (i) Warm up area
- (j) Moving up (6.9)

12 AFTER THE TRIAL (6.10)

- (a) Within 21 days of end of trial
- (b) Marked catalogue
- (c) Entry forms
- (d) Event fees
Note: Recording fees for each component are forwarded to the CKC. For example, A dog enters in Novice Container, Novice Interior and Novice Exterior which is equal to 3 recording fees.
- (e) Judges book
- (f) Plotting Forms