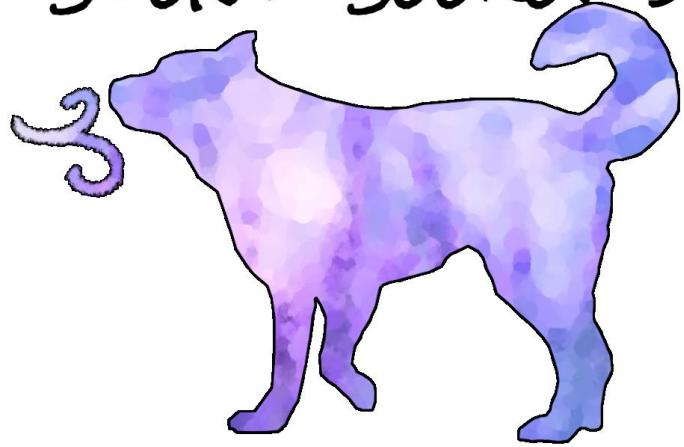


SCENT SEEKERS



Scent Seekers Rulebook

Video Submission Titling

Revision 1.00

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Mission Statement

Scent Seekers's mission is to support scent work as a competitive sport using video submissions. The goal of Scent Seekers is to provide dogs of all ages, skill levels, and environmental sensitivities with a place to grow and achieve throughout the entire journey of each dog and handler team by providing virtual titling opportunities that can be performed in any setting.

Trial Eligibility

All dog breeds are welcome to participate whether purebred, mixed breed, or purpose bred sports mix. A dog must be at least 6 months old in order to be eligible. Dogs with a pre-existing condition that may exhibit lameness that does not cause undue stress or discomfort may compete. If overt lameness is seen throughout the video submissions, Scent Seekers may request to see a veterinary note stating the dog is fit enough for the activity. A search may be scored as a disqualification if Scent Seekers believes the dog appeared unable to safely navigate the search area or if the dog appears to be under undue stress and/or in pain/discomfort.

Minors of any age are eligible to compete provided the minor has adequate control over the dog. A parent/guardian must be present at all times during the search and may be the hide setter/videographer.

Reactive Dogs

Reactive dogs and dogs with other environmental sensitivities are welcome to participate in Scent Seekers virtual trials provided the dog is able to work safely within close proximity of the hide setter and any other humans allowed in the proximity of the search area. Spectators must remain in place throughout the search regardless of how the dog is performing. Any aggressive act shown towards people in a video submission, including lunging and/or excessive barking, may result in a search being scored as a disqualification.

Trial Gear

Handler Gear

Handlers should wear comfortable clothing and shoes that are appropriate for navigating the terrain, as well as protect against weather conditions. Handlers may wear training clothing or equipment in search areas, including vests, bait bags, timers, etc.

Dog Gear

Dogs may be on a flat or martingale collar, or in a non-tightening harness. Pinch/prong collars, choke chains, and head halters may not be used within search areas but can be used to walk the dog to and from a search space. Leashes may be of any length.

Dogs may wear additional clothing or accessories that provide comfort, improve the dog's wellbeing, or for the safety of the dog, such as coats/jackets, boots, anxiety reducing wraps, hair ties/barrette, vet wrap, and britches for bitches in season. Clothing meant to impede a dog's ability to eliminate in a search area, such as a belly band, are not permitted in search areas.

Target Odors

Sweet Birch: Botanical name *Betula lenta*

Anise Seed: Botanical name *Pimpinella anisum*

Clove Bud: Botanical name *Eugenia Caryophyllata* or *Syzgium Aromaticum*

Preparation of Target Odors

Prepare cotton swabs (i.e. Q-tips) by cutting the cotton tip(s) off the cardboard handle. Place 60 cotton tips into an airtight, screw top, glass jar, such as a canning mason jar. Apply three drops of target odor oil (see "Target Odor" section) onto the bottom of the lid and seal the jar for at least 24 hours to allow the odor to permeate the cotton swabs. Alternatively, any number of cotton tips can be prepared as long as the 20 cotton tips to 1 drop of target odor oil ratio is maintained.

Levels

Scent Seekers seeks to give teams a place to play and achieve. All teams must start in Novice, regardless of experience in other organizations. A single title in a level is required to move to the next level, but teams are welcome to remain at any level in order to achieve additional titles. Teams may also move up and down throughout qualified levels as they see fit to achieve additional titles at each level.

Each submission will consist of four searches using any target odor, or a combination of target odors at all levels. Trial submissions for Novice, Open, and Advanced must include one search from each of the four search elements (see "Search Elements"). Elite trial submissions must include four searches, but do not need to include each element as the elements can be used together in searches.

Novice

| Novice | | | |
|--|---|----------------|---------------|
| Number of hides per search area | Time limits | Maximum height | Accessibility |
| 1 hide Number of hides is known | Containers: 2:30 minutes Exteriors: 2:30 minutes Interiors: 2:30 minutes Vehicles: 1:00 minute per vehicle | 24" | Accessible |

Each Novice level search will contain 1 hide per search area. Hides will be a maximum of 24" off the ground and the source of the odor must be accessible to the dog. Ground hides (e.g. hides placed into cracks or in other open areas of ground) will not be used.

Passing score: 100

The total hide count per submission must be 4 hides. Teams must receive a score of 100 by successfully locating all 4 hides without false alerting within the time parameters of each search to pass.

Open

| Open | | | |
|---|---|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Number of hides per search area | Time limits | Maximum height | Accessibility |
| 1-3 hides Number of hides is known | Containers: 2:30 minutes Exteriors: 3:00 minutes Interiors: 3:00 minutes Vehicles: 1:00 minute per vehicle | 36" | Accessible and Inaccessible |

Each Open level search will contain 1-3 hides per search area. The number of hides will be known to the competitor during the search. Hides will be a maximum of 36" off the ground and may include ground hides. Hides at this level may be a combination of accessible and inaccessible hides (e.g. odor is available, but the dog is unable to directly source the hide, such as a hide placed into a drawer). At least one hide out of the total hides must be inaccessible.

Passing score: 100

The total hide count per submission must be 8 hides. Teams must receive a score of 100 by successfully locating all 8 hides without false alerting within the time parameters of each search to pass.

Advanced

| Advanced | | | |
|---|--|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Number of hides per search area | Time limits | Maximum height | Accessibility |
| 0-4 hides Actual number is unknown to the competitor | Containers: 2:30 minutes Exteriors: 3:00 minutes Interiors: 3:00 minutes Vehicles: 3:00 minutes Finish call required to stop time. | 60" | Accessible and Inaccessible |

Each Advanced level search will contain 0-4 hides per search area. The number of hides will be unknown to the competitor before the search but will always be within the range of 0-4 hides per search area. Hides will be a maximum of 60" off the ground and may include ground hides. Hides at this level may be a combination of accessible and inaccessible hides and may involve some converging odor

puzzles. Hides submitted are expected to be a combination of accessible, inaccessible, and mild/moderate elevation (typically 3-4 feet in height).

Handlers must call “Finish” at the end of each search to stop time. Failure to make a finish call will be penalized a half a hide deduction of points for timing out regardless of whether the team has located all of the hides.

Passing score: 100

The total hide count per submission must be 8-12 hides. Teams must receive a score of 100 by successfully locating all hides without false alerting within the time parameters of each search to pass.

Elite

| Elite | | | |
|--|---|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Number of hides per search area | Time limits | Maximum height | Accessibility |
| Any number of hides Unknown, range, or known number | Novice sized spaces: 3:00 minutes Open sized spaces: 4:00 minutes Advanced sized spaces: 5:00 minutes The time limit used must be included in the hide description for each search when submitting to Scent Seekers. Finish call required to stop time. | 120" | Accessible and Inaccessible |

Each Elite level search may contain any number of hides per search area. The number of hides can be a known number to the competitor, a range, or completely unknown. Hides will be a maximum of 120” off the ground and may include ground hides. Hides at this level may be a combination of accessible and inaccessible hides and may be placed in clusters to produce complicated converging odor puzzles. Hides submitted are expected to be a combination of accessible, inaccessible, and moderate/challenging elevation. Submissions that do not contain an adequate level of challenge for the Elite level will be disqualified.

Handlers must call “Finish” at the end of each search to stop time. Failure to make a finish call will be penalized a half a hide deduction of points for timing out regardless of whether the team has located all of the hides.

Passing score: 75

The total hide count must be 12-20 hides. Teams must receive a score of at least 75 to pass. Each false alert and time out will deduct a half a hide worth of points from the total score. Teams do not need to find all hides to pass.

Search Elements

Containers

The container search consists of a group of objects that can be used to hold or transport an object. Containers do not need to be of any particular size or shape, as long as target odor cotton swabs can be attached to the lid using tape and the container provides the target odor access to vent. This can be accomplished through seams or by drilling 3-5 holes into each container lid. Containers should be opaque whenever possible to avoid the handler from being able to see the hide or distractors. If necessary, unused white printer paper may be crumpled up and placed into each container to visually obscure the contents.

Containers may be run either indoors or outdoors (on any dog-safe terrain) at all levels. Dogs are required to run on leash. The start line for all container searches should be placed at least 4 feet from the first container and marked with cones or tape so that it is recognizable to the handler and video reviewer.

Novice: 8-12 containers comprised of cardboard material of any thickness. The containers do not need to match, but should be of a similar height, and should be placed a minimum of 3 feet apart. The search area must be set up into one or several identical rows of containers.

Open: 10-14 containers comprised of cardboard, plastic, or a mixture of both. The containers should be of a similar height, and should be placed a minimum of 2 feet apart. The search area may be set up into any shape, including lines, circles, triangles, X-patterns, etc.

Advanced: 12-16 containers comprised of cardboard, plastic, fabric, and metal (if dog safe and able to vent). The containers used in the search do not need to be of a similar height, and should be placed a minimum of 2 feet apart. The search area may be set up as an organized pattern or in a random array.

Elite: Any number of containers comprised of cardboard, plastic, fabric, and metal (if dog safe and able to vent) can be used. Containers at this level can be standalone or used in conjunction with other search elements. The search area may be set up as an organized pattern or in a random array.

Interiors

The Interior search consists of an indoor room search of varying size based on level. Any room may be used as long the space provided is safe for the dog to navigate, and may include kitchens, bathrooms, hallways, bedrooms, office space, warehouse floor, etc. Several smaller conjoined rooms may be used for a single Interior search. A large room may also be divided by boundary markers to create a smaller search space. The search must be set to ensure that any non-walled search space boundary is visibly marked with cones, tape, or other easily recognizable medium. A start line should be marked by cones or tape so that it is recognizable to the handler and video reviewer. Dogs may run on or off leash.

Novice: 125-500 square feet ± 10%

Open: 250-1000 square feet ± 10%

Advanced: 500-1500 square feet ± 10%

Elite: Any size interior space may be used. Interiors at this level can be standalone or used in conjunction with other search elements.

Exteriors

The Exterior search consists of any space that is open to the outdoors. Exterior searches may be surrounded by walls on any and all sides, or be covered by a roof, provided substantial airflow can move through the search space. Exterior searches can be on any terrain, including concrete, asphalt, dirt, gravel, grass, etc. The search must be set to ensure that any non-walled search space boundary is visibly marked with cones, tape, or other easily recognizable medium. A start line should be marked by cones or tape so that it is recognizable to the handler and video reviewer. Dogs will run on-leash unless the area is fully enclosed on all sides with secure barriers, such as a fence.

Novice: 250-1000 square feet \pm 10%. At least 50% of the search area should be a hard surface, such as concrete or asphalt.

Open: 500-1500 square feet \pm 10% on any terrain.

Advanced: 1000-2000 square feet \pm 10% on any terrain.

Elite: Any size exterior space may be used on any terrain. Exteriors at this level can be standalone or used in conjunction with other search elements.

Vehicles

The vehicle search involves searching the exterior elements of a series of vehicles. For the purpose of the vehicle search element, a vehicle is any wheeled object that can transport people or items. Cars, trucks, semis, buses, trailers, golf carts, lawn mowers, etc. are examples of the types of vehicles that may be used. Vehicle element searches may be conducted either inside or outside, and the vehicles used may be placed onto any terrain type, including asphalt, concrete, grass, artificial turf, dirt, gravel, etc. Each vehicle search will be organized in such a way as to allow the team to easily navigate the space between vehicles, as well as to reduce pooling odor when possible. It is recommended that vehicles be positioned approximately 4-8 feet apart. Dogs are required to run on-leash. The start line for all vehicle searches should be placed at least 10 feet from the first vehicle and marked with cones or tape so that it is recognizable to the handler and video reviewer.

Novice: 1-3 vehicles will be used on any terrain.

Open: 2-3 vehicles will be used on any terrain. A maximum of two hides may be placed on a single vehicle.

Advanced: 3-4 vehicles will be used on any terrain. A maximum of two hides may be placed on a single vehicle.

Elite: Any number of vehicles may be used on any terrain with no maximum to the number of hides that can be placed on a single vehicle. Vehicles at this level can be standalone or used in conjunction with other search elements.

Search Regulations

Dogs must be on leash to and from each search. Dogs performing a search off-leash must be leashed before leaving a search area. At no time is a dog required to work off-leash.

The search time will start when the dog's nose crosses the start line. The video must show the dog crossing the start line to be a valid video submission. Search time will be judged by when the Scent Seekers review deems the dog's nose to have crossed the start line. The search time will end when all hides have been found (in Novice and Open) or when the handler calls Finish (in Advanced and Elite). Teams will be awarded points for all hides located within the time limit provided by Scent Seekers (see "Levels").

Handlers may communicate with their dog throughout each search and may stop to reward or touch their dog at any time without penalty.

Both dog and handler may step outside of the search area in order for the dog to gain access to or work back to the source of the odor. Search area boundaries are only to indicate the area in which a hide can be found. Hides should never be placed on a search area boundary, such as on a flag, under tape, or inside of a cone marking a boundary.

When the handler believes their dog has indicated a hide, the handler will call "Alert". The Alert call should be made loud enough that the call can be heard by the hide setter and on the video for the Scent Seekers reviewer. The hide setter will respond with a "Yes" or "No". The handler should wait for confirmation of a hide before rewarding their dog with either food or a toy. Teams may continue to search after receiving a "No" from the hide setter at all levels. Each false alert will deduct a half a hide worth of points from the team's final score if the Scent Seekers reviewer agrees with the false alert. It is possible to receive a "No" from a hide setter while receiving a "Yes" from the Scent Seekers reviewer based on the location of the hides and the behaviors seen from the dog.

Dogs are not required to perform a trained final response, such as a sit or a down, to indicate odor. Scent Seekers reviewers will determine that the dog has exhibited the behavior changes needed to indicate that the dog has found the location of the odor. The dog must be, or have just been, as close to source as the dog can access in order to be awarded with a "Yes". Accessible hides may have a smaller range of acceptance than inaccessible or elevated hides.

At the Advanced and Elite level, the handler must call "Finish" when the handler knows (in a search with a known number of hides to the handler) or believes (in a search with an unknown number or range of hides known to the handler) that all hides have been located to stop time.

Handlers are prohibited from taking back a call. Once an "Alert" or "Finish" call is made in entirety, it cannot be undone.

Video Submission Titling (VST) Basics

Teams using the Video Submission Titling system are required to have a second person to set hides that are unknown to the handler and concealed from view and video the entire search using all level and search element parameters set forth within this rulebook. The start line must be clearly indicated with either tape or cones so that the Scent Seeker reviewer can accurately determine when the dog has

started the time. Boundaries must be clearly marked using flags, cones, or natural boundaries such as walls for the benefit of the handler.

Running a Search

Scent Seekers recommends hides age for at least 30 minutes prior to running the search.

Submissions must be unedited videos that start as the team is approaching the start line with the dog on leash and must continue until the team has fully exited the search area with the dog on leash. The hide setter/videographer must follow the dog at a distance throughout the search so that it is clear to the Scent Seekers reviewer that the dog has indicated the correct location of the hide. The handler must call "Alert" so that both the hide setter and Scent Seeker video reviewer can hear the call. The hide setter will respond with either "Yes" for a correct call or "No" for an incorrect call. The call from the hide setter is only an indication that the hide setter agrees that the dog has located odor. It is up to the Scent Seekers reviewer to determine if the dog was close enough to source to award a correct call. It is possible that a "Yes" from the hide setter may result in a "No" from Scent Seekers if the dog is too far from the actual location of the hide. It is also possible to receive a "No" from the hide setter and a "Yes" from the Scent Seekers reviewer if the reviewer feels the hide should have a larger range of acceptance due to the complexity of the hide. If a Finish call is required (Advanced and Elite), the handler must also call "Finish" in order to stop time loud enough for the Scent Seekers video reviewer to hear the call.

Submissions are made on the honor system. Competitors are expected to submit their first and only attempt at each blind search. Search elements do not need to be run in the same day to be a valid submission.

Submitting VST Videos

If the team is able to meet passing requirements for a level, as outlined in the "Levels" section, the unedited videos may be submitted for video review along with the review fee. Videos should be uploaded onto YouTube or another video format (either for public viewing or as an unlisted video) and the links pasted into the Scent Seekers trial submission form. The specific location of the hides must be included in the description section, found in the submission form, in such a way that there is no doubt where the hide is located while watching the video.

Hide location specifics should include:

- The object the hide is located on, if applicable.
- The exact location of the hide on the object (e.g. "left front corner beneath the seat", "back bottom right leg of the cabinet", "fourth box on the left").
- The quadrant of the room the hide is located in, if applicable.
- Inaccessibility of hide, if applicable.
- Time limit used, for Elite level searches only.

Scent Seekers will review videos (typically within 48 hours of submission) and email the results to the competitor. Scent Seekers will mail titles and awards approximately every 3 months.

Scent Seekers Trial Submission Form

The Scent Seekers Trial Submission Form can be found here: [Submission Form](#)

Titles

Suffix Titles

Scent Work Novice (SWN): 1 pass at the Novice level.

Scent Work Novice – Excellent (SWN-Ex): 3 passes at the Novice level.

Scent Work Novice – Superior (SWN-S): 6 passes at the Novice level.

Scent Work Novice – Champion (SWN-Ch): 10 passes at the Novice level.*

*Additional SWN-Ch titles may be earned each time an additional 10 passes at the Novice level is attained and will be denoted with the number of SWN-Ch titles that have been earned, e.g. SWN-Ch3.

Scent Work Open (SWO): 1 pass at the Open level.

Scent Work Open – Excellent (SWO-Ex): 3 passes at the Open level.

Scent Work Open – Superior (SWO-S): 6 passes at the Open level.

Scent Work Open – Champion (SWO-Ch): 10 passes at the Open level.*

*Additional SWO-Ch titles may be earned each time an additional 10 passes at the Open level is attained and will be denoted with the number of SWO-Ch titles that have been earned, e.g. SWO-Ch3.

Scent Work Advanced (SWA): 1 pass at the Advanced level.

Scent Work Advanced – Excellent (SWA-Ex): 3 passes at the Advanced level.

Scent Work Advanced – Superior (SWA-S): 6 passes at the Advanced level.

Scent Work Advanced – Champion (SWA-Ch): 10 passes at the Advanced level.*

*Additional SWA-Ch titles may be earned each time an additional 10 passes at the Advanced level is attained and will be denoted with the number of SWA-Ch titles that have been earned, e.g. SWA-Ch3.

Scent Work Elite (SWE): 1 pass at the Elite level.

Scent Work Elite – Excellent (SWE-Ex): 3 passes at the Elite level.

Scent Work Elite – Superior (SWE-S): 6 passes at the Elite level.

Prefix Titles

Scent Work Champion (SW-Ch): 10 passes at the Elite level.*

*Additional SW-Ch titles may be earned each time an additional 10 passes at the Elite level is attained and will be denoted with the number of SW-Ch titles that have been earned, e.g. SW-Ch3.

Disqualifications

Disqualifications

A team will be disqualified from a search for major infractions that compromise search areas or create unsafe situations for people or the dog in the search area. Teams that are disqualified from a search will receive a 0 for that search regardless of the number of hides found.

Each of the following situations may require a team to be disqualified:

- Urinating or defecating in the search area before, during, or after a search.
- Major damage to a search area, such as creating scratch or bite marks on a vehicle or to a search area that is visible on video.
- Mild reactivity from the dog to people in the search area that cannot be interrupted by the handler.
- Dog appears to be under undue stress or is visibly in pain/discomfort.
- Receiving feedback, whether solicited or unsolicited, from a spectator or hide setter.
- Handler providing harsh corrections, either physically or verbally, to the dog.
- Handlers found to be cheating.
- Failure to set hides of an appropriate difficulty for the level entered.

Scoring

Results are calculated out of a total score of 100. Each hide will be given a numerical value based on the total number of hides, as indicated in the tables below. Teams will be awarded points for each hide found. Point deductions for false alerts and time outs will be subtracted from the team's total score.

Novice

| Total number of hides | Points per hide | Point deduction for false alert |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 hides | 25 points | 12.5 points |

Open

| Total number of hides | Points per hide | Point deduction for false alert |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 8 hides | 12.50 points | 6.25 points |

Advanced

| Total number of hides | Points per hide | Point deduction for false alert or time out |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| 8 hides | 12.50 points | 6.25 points |
| 9 hides | 11.11 points | 5.56 points |
| 10 hides | 10.00 points | 5.00 points |
| 11 hides | 9.09 points | 4.55 points |
| 12 hides | 8.33 points | 4.17 points |

Elite

| Total number of hides | Points per hide | Point deduction for false alert or time out |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| 12 hides | 8.33 points | 4.17 points |
| 13 hides | 7.69 points | 3.85 points |
| 14 hides | 7.14 points | 3.57 points |
| 15 hides | 6.67 points | 3.33 points |
| 16 hides | 6.25 points | 3.13 points |
| 17 hides | 5.88 points | 2.94 points |
| 18 hides | 5.56 points | 2.78 points |
| 19 hides | 5.26 points | 2.63 points |
| 20 hides | 5.00 points | 2.50 points |

Definitions

Active Call: A call that a handler must make, depending on the level, in order to pass. Active calls include the “Alert” call and the “Finish” call. In the event of a tie between an active call and the time limit the tie will go to the dog.

Alert: The call made by the handler to indicate that the dog has located odor. The “Alert” call must be made when the dog is at source; the call cannot be made retrospectively (e.g. from across the room later in the search). The “Alert” call must be made so the Scent Seekers reviewer can clearly hear it. Any word other than Alert will not be accepted as an official indication of a hide by a Scent Seekers reviewer.

Blind search: A search where the location of the hides is concealed and unknown to the handler of the dog. The handler indicates the location of a hide by calling “Alert” and waiting for confirmation from the hide setter. All searches submitted to Scent Seekers must be blind searches.

False Alert: An incorrect call about the location of odor made by the handler that may or may not have been in response to the dog. The hide setter will respond “No” and the team will receive a half a hide

deduction of points for each false alert but may continue to search. Only calls deemed a false alert by a Scent Seekers reviewer will receive the point deduction penalty.

Finish: Beginning at the Advanced level, the Finish call is used to indicate that the handler believes that all hides have been located and to stop time. The Finish call is an active call made at the Advanced and Elite levels. Each failure to call “Finish” before time expires will result in a half a hide deduction of points from the team’s score due to timing out.

Fringe: A dog that indicates the presence of odor at the edge of the odor cone instead of at source, resulting in a false alert. As there is no set distance that a dog may be from source to receive a “Yes”, the Scent Seekers reviewer will use their knowledge of the odor, as well as the dog’s changes of behavior to decide if the dog has solved the odor problem or fringed.

Start line: The known boundary that the dog must cross in order to start time. The start line may be a line of tape, a set of marking cones, or a box indicated by tape and/or cones. Time begins when the dog’s nose crosses the line regardless of whether the dog was cued to begin by the handler.

Time Out: When the maximum amount of search time has run out without locating all hides or without calling “Finish”, depending on the level. In the Advanced and Elite levels, failure to make a Finish call will result in a time out penalty of a half a hide deduction of points.

Awards

Teams that title in a Scent Seekers virtual trial will be sent a title certificate and a three-streamer rosette ribbon to commemorate their achievement. Titles and awards will be mailed quarterly to the address on file with Scent Seekers.