

# New Zealand Kennel Club (Inc.)

(Affiliated with The Kennel Club, England) (Associated with the Federation  
Cynologique Internationale)

## SCENT WORK



## REGULATIONS

(Reprinted with Additions & Amendments effective from 1 Jan 2025)

**Dogs New Zealand**

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# DOGS NEW ZEALAND SCENT WORK REGULATIONS

## A. PURPOSE

### 1. DOGS NEW ZEALAND SCENT WORK SECTION

#### 1.1 Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Regulations

The purpose of having a set of rules and regulations regarding Scent Work is to ensure that:

- a) Trainers and handlers can further develop and extend Scent Work skills.
- b) Welfare of the dog is paramount, including all aspects of health and safety.
- c) Handlers are familiar with any risks involved while participating in Dogs New Zealand Scent Work
- d) Dogs New Zealand Scent Work activities and associated rules of participation are regularly reviewed.

### 2. DOGS NEW ZEALAND SCENT WORK COMMITTEE effective 29 February 2024

#### 2.1 Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee

##### 2.1.1 Members

The Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee will be comprised of seven members elected by those who participate in the sport. These seven include 3 South Island and 3 North Island members and a chairperson who may be from either island.

##### 2.1.2 Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee Chairperson

A member of the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee shall be elected by those who participate in the sport.

##### 2.1.3 Quorum

A quorum of the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee shall be five members.

##### 2.1.4 Lapse of meeting

If no quorum is present the meeting shall lapse, and the chairperson shall fix the time and place of the next meeting. All business on the agenda of the lapsed meeting shall be included on the agenda of the next meeting and shall take precedence over the new business.

##### 2.1.5 Election of the Scent Work Committee Members

Elections for the members of the Scent Work committee shall be undertaken annually with half of the committee being elected each year and each serving a term of two years commencing 1 July in the year they were elected. The Chairperson will also be elected and serve a term of two years commencing on 1 July in the year they were elected.

**2.1.5.1** Nominations for Scent Work committee members (and Chairperson where appropriate) shall be called for in March of each year by the Dogs New Zealand office. Nominations must be received by 31 March and be accompanied by a full biography of the candidate. The biography of the candidate will appear on the Dogs New Zealand website and will be linked in the DogiE News and/or the Dogs New Zealand Dog World magazine. The

person must be nominated and seconded by financial Dogs New Zealand members who are also registered as Scent Work voters.

Eligible members may stand for both a seat on the committee and for the position of chairperson in the same election with the position of chairperson taking precedence if the nominee is successful in election to both positions. The position on the committee will then be filled by the next highest polling eligible candidate while maintaining the North/South Island requirement.

- 2.1.5.2** To be eligible to stand for, or to vote in, the election for the Scent Work committee and/or Chairman of the committee, Dogs New Zealand members must be registered on the Scent Work Voting Register. To be eligible for the register, members must either be listed on the current Scent Work judges panel or have entered and taken part in a Dogs New Zealand Scent Work trial within the past 36 months. Members must be registered on the Scent Work Voting Register by 1 April to be eligible to vote in that year's election.
- 2.1.5.3** Should there be insufficient expressions of interest to form a quorum, members of the outgoing Committee may volunteer to remain on the committee until such time as the positions are filled.
- 2.1.5.4** If insufficient nominations are received at the date of close above, to enable the Scent Work Committee to continue (with the make-up of the representational requirements), the following process must be followed:
  - 2.1.5.4.1** If the number of nominations received at advertised date of close constitutes a quorum, the new committee shall find or appoint the remaining positions once their term of office commences providing that the considerations of representational requirements are met.
  - 2.1.5.4.2** If the number of nominations received at the advertised date of close does not constitute a quorum, expressions of interest will be sought to gain enough new members for the new committee to form a quorum. The outgoing Scent Work Committee will select from those who express interest to increase the number on the incoming committee to a number which constitutes a quorum. The new Committee including any people added as detailed above, will then select the remaining members to reach the full membership.
  - 2.1.5.4.3** Should there be insufficient expressions of interest to form a quorum, members of the outgoing Committee may volunteer to remain on the committee until such time as the positions are filled.
- 2.1.5.5** Where no nominations are received for the position of Chairperson, the Scent Work committee will elect a Chairperson from within the Committee and the vacancy on the Committee representation which this creates will be filled as for casual vacancies of Committee members.
- 2.1.5.6** When an existing Committee member is elected to Chairperson, their place on the committee will be filled as for casual vacancies.
- 2.1.5.7** Casual vacancies in the Committee shall be filled by the member who recorded the next highest number of votes, in the year of the election of the member causing the vacancy, provided that he or she shall be prepared to serve on the

committee. If there is no one so eligible, the committee will seek expressions of interest from all eligible Dogs New Zealand members.

- 2.1.5.8** The Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee remains a sub-committee of Dogs New Zealand Executive council and will provide a report to Executive meetings.

### **2.1.6 Interim Regulation**

Elections for the 2024 year will be for 3 members of the Scent Work committee with the existing Chairperson and remaining members sitting until the 2025 elections. The three members who have been on the committee for the least amount of time will end their term in July 2024.

To maintain the representative requirements, the 2024 election will be for 2 x South Island representatives and 1 x North Island representative.

## **2.2 Responsibilities of the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee**

The Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee is responsible to the Executive Council of Dogs New Zealand for ensuring the following:

- a) Furthering the development of Dogs New Zealand Scent Work.
- b) Extending Scent Work skills for trainers and handlers.
- c) Ensuring the welfare of dog participating is paramount, including all aspects of their health and safety.
- d) Ensuring that handlers are familiar with any risks involved while participating in Dogs New Zealand Scent Work.
- e) Dogs New Zealand Scent Work activities and associated rules of participation are regularly reviewed.

### **3. SCENT WORK FIXTURES – GENERAL CONDITIONS**

#### **3.1 Dogs New Zealand Membership**

Handlers wishing to gain Scent Work Titles and Awards must be members of Dogs New Zealand prior to participation. Qualifications obtained prior to Dogs New Zealand membership shall not be recognized retrospectively for the issuing of Titles and Awards. Non-members may enter a maximum of two days of Scent Work Trials before being required to join Dogs New Zealand.

#### **3.2 Handlers**

Persons of differing abilities may participate, providing they are able to move around the Search Area without physical assistance or guidance. Use of a wheelchair, crutches or cane is acceptable.

**3.2.1** At all times in the Immediate Search Area, the dog must be under the firm control of the handler. If the dog is controlled by means of a lead attached to a collar or harness, but the handler is not able to hold the lead, a pre-approved designated person, who must not be a registered entry for that search, shall be permitted to hold the lead, but may not command the dog in other manner than directed by the handler.

**3.2.2** Designated person's name must be entered on the entry form as well as the official owner/handler of the dog participating. Persons not so entered will not be permitted to participate as a designated person at any Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Trial after an Entry date closing.

#### **3.3 Pregnant Handlers**

Considerable care is taken by Dogs New Zealand in authorizing which Essential Oils can be used for odour detection. However, some Essential Oils may still pose a risk to pregnant handlers and in such cases, handlers participate at their own risk.

#### **3.4 Participants' Numbers**

Each participant will be allocated a Scent Work Trial number for each entry submitted. Participants must display in a visible manner their entry number for each Scent Work Class they are entered in.

#### **3.5 Handler Reporting**

A handler intending to participate in a Scent Work Trial must report their presence to the Scent Work Trials Manager or their nominee on arrival at the Scent Work Trial and well before participation.

#### **3.6 Handlers Running Multiple Dogs**

An owner may enter more than one dog in a Scent Work class providing accommodation has been previously made by a hosting society to run a sub-Trial to accommodate such requirements.

##### **3.6.1 Sub-Trials**

An owner may enter a maximum of two dogs providing on such occasions, the position of the hide shall be different from the initial search pattern but remain the same for each Sub-Trial.

#### **3.7 In Assembly Area**

A handler/dog team must be in the Assembly Area immediately prior to the conclusion of the handler/dog team participating before them in the Search Area.

#### **3.8 Withdrawal of Entry**

A handler may withdraw their dog before or during judging.

### **3.9 Registration of Dogs**

All dogs entering a qualifying Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Trial for the purpose of obtaining an Award or Title, must be registered with the New Zealand Kennel Club in the name of the competitor on either Part I (the purebred register) or Part II of the New Zealand Kennel Club Register of dogs.

### **3.10 Dog Welfare**

#### **3.10.1 Physical Health**

**3.10.1.1** It is the participant's responsibility to ensure that their dog is brought to the venue in good health on the day of the trial and they have not, to their knowledge, been in contact with any contagious diseases within the previous six weeks.

**3.10.1.2** Dogs with physical or behavioural challenges (including amputees, deaf and/or blind dogs) may participate, providing that in the opinion of the Scent Work Judge they display no signs of physical discomfort or stress.

#### **3.10.2 Search Areas**

Search Areas should be free of any sharp or protruding objects which may harm the dog, and in the case of vehicles being used, there must not be any evidence of fuel or oil leaks.

### **3.11 Bitches in Season**

Bitches in season are forbidden to compete at or attend Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Trials. Any person presenting a bitch in season at a Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Fixture will be liable to suspension for a period of up to 12 months.

### **3.12 Pregnant Bitches**

Considerable care is taken by Dogs New Zealand in authorizing which Essential Oils can be used for odour detection. However, some Essential Oils may still pose a risk to pregnant dogs and handlers participating with such dogs do so at their own risk.

### **3.13 Odour Prohibition**

Other than those engaged in the administration of the Scent Work Trial, no other individual is permitted to bring to the venue any of the target odours being used at the Scent Work Trial. This applies to both participants and spectators.

### **3.14 Previews are not permitted.**

To protect the integrity of the hide handlers are prohibited from watching the scent area being set-up or other handlers undertaking the search until after their own search has been completed.

### **3.15 Videotaping/Photography**

Videotaping/photography of a handler may be undertaken on behalf of a participant for their own personal use. No photograph or video footage may however be used to challenge a Scent Work Judge's decision. Neither shall any photographs or video footage be made available for viewing at any time till after completion of the trial.

## **4. CONDUCT OF SCENT WORK TRIALS – GENERAL CONDITIONS**

### **4.1 Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Regulations Apply**

Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Regulations apply to the conduct of Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Trials. In the event of a conflict between the Scent Work Regulations and Dog Obedience or Show Regulations, Scent Work Regulations shall take precedence. If a matter is not mentioned in the Scent Work Regulations, Dogs New Zealand Show Regulations apply.

### **4.2 Exclusion from Participation**

Any person taking part in a Scent Work trial who openly challenges the actions or decisions of the Scent Work Judge shall render themselves liable to be excluded from any further participation in the Scent Work trial and may be asked to leave the grounds.

### **4.3 Recognized Scent Work Trials**

Scent Work Trials held by registered Dogs New Zealand Societies are recognized Scent Work Trials. All other Scent Work Trials are unrecognized Scent Work Trials pursuant to these regulations.

### **4.4 Scent Work Trial Approval**

All Societies wishing to host Scent Work Trials with the intent of issuing Dogs New Zealand qualifying certificates, are required to submit to the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee an application to do so preferably six months in advance. An application form requesting the required information is available from the Dogs New Zealand and Dogs New Zealand Scent Work websites.

### **4.5 Publication of Schedules**

Qualifying Scent Work Trials must be published in the New Zealand Dog World.

#### **4.5.1 Published Announcements**

All published material announcing a Scent Work Trial must at least contain the date it will be conducted on; Location of Scent Work trial; Classes offered and Judges.

### **4.6 Results for Qualifying Scent Work Trials**

Results for all Dogs New Zealand Qualifying Scent Work Trials must be submitted to Dogs New Zealand within 14 days of the show, using an appropriate Scent Work Results sheet which can be downloaded from the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work website.

### **4.7 Dogs New Zealand Levy**

A levy of \$1 (plus GST) per entry must be paid to Dogs New Zealand by the organising Region or club within one calendar month of the event to cover certificate and administration costs.

### **4.8 Harsh Handling**

Any allegation of harsh handling shall require that a complaint be laid of a breach of Dogs New Zealand Regulations and shall be dealt with in accordance with those Rules, provided however that this clause shall not necessarily apply to a judge who whilst judging exercises discretionary powers to penalize or disqualify for harsh handling any dog or handler.

### **4.9 Aggressive Behaviour**

Any dog that attacks or displays aggressive behaviour towards any person or another dog shall be reported to the Trials manager and dealt with according to Show Regulation 19.13 Exclusion of Dogs.

#### **4.10 Excess Entries**

In the event that a hosting Society receives a greater number of entries than is permissible for a Scent Work Judge to judge, and an additional Scent Work Judge is not available, then the hosting Society may either:

- a) Accept entries on a first received first accepted basis, or
- b) Conduct a ballot of received entries within one day of the scheduled closing date.

**4.10.1** Conditions of selection are to be specified in the Scent Work Trials Schedule, and handlers advised of entry acceptance or denial within forty-eight hours.

**4.10.2** In the event of a handler being denied an entry, a full refund of any entry fees paid is to be provided.

#### **4.11 Replacement Judge**

In the event of unforeseen circumstances which prevent the scheduled judge from officiating, a replacement Scent Work Judge may be appointed by the hosting Society's Trial committee and if practicable all participants must be advised prior to the show.

#### **4.12 Change of Scheduled Judge**

If a replacement Scent Work Judge is used but not listed in the original schedule, a participant may withdraw from the Scent Work Trials affected and any entry fee paid refunded provided the applicant requests such a refund on or before the date of the Scent Work Trial.

#### **4.13 Off-lead Searches**

At the presiding judge's discretion, off-lead searches are permissible for Container, Interior and Exterior searches, providing such searches are conducted within a confined/contained area, and in a manner that does not allow dogs to enter adjacent search or out of bounds areas.

##### **4.13.1 Lead Available**

During off-lead searches, handlers must retain their dog's lead at all times.

## **5. SCENT WORK JUDGES**

### **5.1 Requirements of a Judge**

#### **5.1.1 Financial Membership of New Zealand Kennel Club.**

All Scent Work Judges must be financial members of Dogs New Zealand.

#### **5.1.2 Listing on Panels**

Only a Scent Work Judge qualified to judge the Level and Class of Trial and listed on the current Scent Work Panel may judge an official Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Trial where Scent Detection Certificates are awarded.

For each class, Scent Work Judges may judge at, or any level below, that which they are on the panel for.

### **5.2 Role and Authorities of Scent Work Judge**

#### **5.2.1 The Judge shall:**

- a) Have and maintain complete control and decision-making over matters in the search area.
- b) Design each of the searches; this includes course design, selecting (and/or, if appropriate, varying) the hide locations.
- c) Evaluate the team's performance during the search.
- d) When the handler calls "Alert" accompanied by a raising of the hand, confirm with a "Yes" or "No"
- e) Assess the team for any faults such as handling errors and mild rule infractions during the search.
- f) Issue NQ faults and excusals when necessary.
- g) Assign a Qualify or Non-Qualify result for each search.

#### **5.2.2 Maximum Numbers**

The maximum number of searches a Scent Work Judge may judge per day in any Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Trial is 80.

#### **5.2.3 Re-runs**

If, in the opinion of the Scent Work Judge, a dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar or extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the handler, the Scent Work Judge has the discretion to determine that all or the relevant component of the search may be rerun.

### **5.3 Judges of Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Trials**

A Judge appointed on a Specific Scent Work Panel & Class may also Judge the same Class of a lower level.

### **5.4 Appointment to the Panels**

#### **5.4.1 General**

##### **5.4.1.1 Exceptional Circumstances**

The following are the normal requirements for appointment to the panels. They may be deviated from only with the written approval of Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee and Dogs New Zealand Executive Council.

#### **5.4.1.2 Minimum Criteria**

The criteria for appointment to any panel shall be a minimum requirement before an application can be considered. In addition, the Dogs NZ Scent Work Committee and the Executive Council shall consider the following criteria:

- . The contribution of the applicant to the canine world in relation to the status of the appointment sought.
- . The demeanor and behaviour of the applicant at canine activities.
- . The standard and conduct of judging exhibited by the applicant at previous appointments.
- . The nature and status of previous appointments.
- . The personal qualities of the applicant.
- . The integrity of the applicant.
- . Any other relevant matters.

#### **5.4.2 Term of Appointment**

Appointments to Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Panels will be effective from the date set by the Executive Council upon fulfilling the requirement for promotion and will be for the period concluding on 30 June in the following year.

#### **5.4.3 Reappointments**

##### **5.4.3.1 Judging License Fee**

A judge will be reappointed to Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Panels already held for a further year upon payment of the annual judging license fee.

Initial appointees to any Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Panel shall pay a judging license fee equal to the annual judging license fee for the period concluding on 30 June in the following year.

#### **5.4.4 New Applications and Promotions**

Applications for new appointments to or promotion within the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Judges Panel shall be considered by the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee at their following meeting subsequent meeting subsequent to the receipt of an application.

#### **5.4.5 Form of Application**

Application for Dogs New Zealand Scent Work panel is made by completing the Dogs New Zealand application form and lodging it with the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee. All applications must clearly state all qualifying criteria.

#### **5.4.6 Recommendations to Executive Council**

Upon considering the applications and the results of the examinations, the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee will recommend to the Executive Council all amendments to the appropriate Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Judging Panels.

#### **5.4.7 Signature of Applicant**

The signature of the applicant on the Application Form for First Appointment to or promotion within the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Judges Panels will imply acceptance by the applicant of the decision of the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee and the Executive Council.

#### **5.4.8 Decision Final**

The decision of the Executive Council and the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee is final, and no correspondence will be entered into, and no reasons need be given for the Executive Council and the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee's decision in these matters provided where an applicant at the time of application held a current appointment to a Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Judges Panel and is not reappointed to those panels, they shall have a right of appeal to the Executive Council.

### **5.5 Scent Work Judges Examinations**

#### **5.5.1 Coordinator**

The Chairperson of the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee is the coordinator of the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Judges Examinations.

#### **5.5.2 Setting Examinations**

The Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee will appoint suitable persons to set appropriate examination papers.

#### **5.5.3 Contents of Examination**

The examination paper shall be of a duration appropriate for the number of questions being asked. Each examination shall consist of 8 (eight) multi choice answer of a general knowledge nature pertaining to the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Regulations, and 2 (two) specific questions for each Class Panel being applied for.

Examinations may be presented as a hard copy or in an electronic form (as requested by the examinee). If an examinee requests an electronic form of examination, they must supply an email address to which the examination paper is sent.

All examinations shall be open book.

#### **5.5.4 Pass Mark**

A pass mark is a minimum of 90%.

#### **5.5.5 Date and Time of Examination**

The Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee shall provide examinations as required, which if not responded to within 5 days of being sent, shall be withdrawn and a further application required.

Candidates not meeting the required standard will have one opportunity to re-sit the examination within a six-month period. The locations of the examinations will be decided by the coordinator depending on applications received.

#### **5.5.6 Permission to Sit Examination**

Any applicant shown on their application form as meeting the other criteria for appointment or promotion will be permitted to sit an examination. Any permission so given is not confirmation that the criteria have been met.

#### **5.5.7 Re-count**

Within 21 days of being advised of the results of a theoretical examination candidates may apply for a re-count of their examination mark which shall be conducted upon payment of the appropriate fee.

The re-counted mark once given shall be final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

## **5.6 Scent Work Panels - Appointment and Promotion**

### **5.6.1 First Appointment to the Novice Panels**

**5.6.1.1** In coming to their decision to accept a candidate for training, the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee will consider the following:

- The applicant's personal experience with Scent Work training, especially their empathy for the needs of participants at the level for which they are making application.
- The applicant's achievements and previous history in club activities
- The applicant's reasons for wishing to fulfil the obligations of a Scent Work judge
- Any other matters that may be based on the merits of the individual and/or the local situation.

#### **5.6.1.2 Criteria**

Applicants for appointment to the Novice Scent Work Panels must have:

- a) Had experience in the setting up, assisting and time stewarding for a minimum of five Novice Scent Work trials, one of which must have been for Novice Container configuration A and another for Novice Container configuration B.
- b) Trained for and attained at least three complete Novice Dogs New Zealand Scent Detection Certificates in the Panel Class the applicant is applying for.
- c) A history of having assisted with Scent Work training at club level.
- d) Received appropriate instruction and training for the purpose of becoming a Scent Work judge in the Class applied for.
- e) Carried out two Novice probationary appointments in the Class applied for under two different Scent Work Judges permitted to Judge at the same level or higher, involving at least ten dogs per probationary, and been the subject of a favourable report to the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee by the Scent Work Judge who had supervised in each case.
- f) Passed the appropriate Dogs New Zealand Scent Work written examination.
- g) Approval from the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee.

### **5.6.2 Probationary Judging Appointments**

#### **5.6.2.1 Permission to Conduct Probationary**

Probationary judges must request from the judge permission to do a probationary. The request will be included in the judging contract and the Scent Work Trials manager will be informed.

#### **5.6.2.2 Dogs NZ Chairperson to Advise Probationer**

Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee Chairperson shall advise Probationer whether the report is favourable or not.

### **5.6.3 Promotion to the Advanced Panels**

#### **5.6.3.1 Criteria**

Applicants for appointment to the Advanced Scent Work Panels must be listed as being currently eligible to judge all Novice Scent Work Classes and have:

- a) Time stewarded for a minimum of one Advanced Scent Work Trial of the Scent Work Class the applicant is applying for.
- b) Trained and attained at least three complete Advanced Dogs New Zealand Scent Detection Certificates in the Panel Class the applicant is applying for.
- c) A history of having assisted with Scent Work training at club level.
- d) Be currently enrolled in or have completed a Dogs New Zealand Scent Work committee approved external Scent Work training course.
- e) Carried out two Advanced probationary appointments in the Class applied for under two different Scent Work Judges permitted to Judge at the same level or higher, involving at least ten dogs per probationary, and been the subject of a favourable report to the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee by the Scent Work Judge who had supervised in each case.
- f) Passed the appropriate Dogs New Zealand Scent Work written examination.
- g) Approval from the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee.

### **5.6.4 Promotion to the Excellent Panels**

#### **5.6.4.1 Criteria**

Applicants for appointment to the Excellent Scent Work Panels must be already listed as being currently eligible to judge the Advanced Scent Work Class applied for and have:

- a) Time stewarded for a minimum of one Excellent Scent Work Trials of the for each Scent Work Class the applicant is applying for.
- b) A history of having assisted with Scent Work training at club level.
- c) Carried out two Excellent probationary appointments in the Class applied for under two different Scent Work Judges permitted to Judge at the same level or higher, involving at least ten dogs per probationary, and been the subject of a favourable report to the Dogs NZ Scent Work Committee by the Scent Work Judge who had supervised in each case.
- d) Passed the appropriate Dogs New Zealand Scent Work written examination.
- e) Approval from the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee

### **5.6.5 Promotion to the Master Panels**

#### **5.6.5.1 Criteria**

Applicants for appointment to the Master Scent Work Panels must be listed as being currently eligible to judge the Excellent Scent Work Class applied for and have:

- a) Time stewarded for a minimum of one Master Scent Work Trials for each Scent Work Class the applicant is applying for.

- b) A history of having assisted with Scent Work training at club level.
- c) Carried out two Master probationary appointments in the Class applied for under two different Scent Work Judges permitted to Judge at the same level or higher, involving at least ten dogs per probationary, and been the subject of a favourable report to the Dogs NZ Scent Work Committee by the Scent Work Judge who had supervised in each case.
- d) Passed the appropriate Dogs New Zealand Scent Work written examination.
- e) Approval from the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee.

#### **5.6.6 First Appointment and Promotion Criteria Exemptions**

Exemptions may be given upon application to the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee for the requirement to undertake the criteria listed below providing such application is made within twelve months of a Class and Level being formally adopted by Dogs New Zealand.

- a) Be listed as being currently eligible to judge all previous level Scent Work Classes.
- b) Had experience in the setting up, assisting and time stewarding for a minimum of two Scent Work Trials at the Level and Class which the applicant is applying for.
- c) Carried out two probationary appointments in the Class applied for under two different Scent Work Judges permitted to judge at the same level or higher, involving at least ten dogs per probationary, and have been the subject of a favourable report to the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Committee by the Scent Work Judge who had supervised in each case.
- d) Passed the appropriate Dogs New Zealand Scent Work written examination.

## **6. DOGS NEW ZEALAND TITLES AND AWARDS**

### **6.1 Dogs NZ Qualifying Certificates**

A Dogs New Zealand Qualifying Certificate shall be awarded to each handler/dog team who successfully completes a Scent Work Search. Certificates are required to detail the Level and Class completed. It should also include whenever applicable, patterns completed and should also include whenever applicable, patterns completed.

### **6.2 Scent Work Judges Signature**

Scent Detection Certificates must be signed by the officiating Scent Work Judge prior to awarding to recipients.

### **6.3 Scent Work Titles**

#### **6.3.1 Scent Work Novice (SN)**

In order to obtain Scent Work Novice (SN) a dog must have attained the Award of NCS and a further four (4) Qualifying Certificates.

These additional four certificates are to comprise of two from at least two other Novice Classes. This being two from Interior and/or Exterior and/or Vehicle, under at least two different Judges, e.g.

- NCS + 2 Interior Certificates & 2 Exterior Certificates OR:
- NCS + 2 Interior Certificates & 2 Vehicle Certificate OR:
- NCS + 2 Exterior Certificates & 2 Vehicle Certificates

#### **6.3.2 Scent Work Advanced (SA)**

When a dog has been awarded two Advanced Class Awards in addition to two Qualification Certificates from each of the two remaining Advanced Classes, under at least two different judges they may on endorsement by Dogs New Zealand, add the letters SA after its name.

#### **6.3.3 Scent Work Excellent (SE)**

When a dog has been awarded three Excellent Class Awards in addition to two Qualification Certificates from the remaining Excellent Class, they may on endorsement by Dogs New Zealand add the letters SE after its name.

### **6.4 Application for Title**

Application for Scent Work Titles must be made in writing to Dogs New Zealand submitting the required Scent Detection Certificates supporting the application.

### **6.5 Scent Work Awards**

#### **6.5.1 Novice Container Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained three qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for each of the two Novice Container patterns (i.e., both patterns must have been achieved three times) under at least two different judges, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of NCS after its name.

#### **6.5.2 Novice Interior Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Novice Interior Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of NIS after its name.

### **6.5.3 Novice Exterior Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Novice Exterior Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of NES after its name.

### **6.5.4 Novice Vehicle Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Novice Vehicle Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of NVS after its name.

### **6.5.5 Advanced Container Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Advanced Container pattern, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of ACS after its name.

### **6.5.6 Advanced Interior Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Advanced Interior Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of AIS after its name.

### **6.5.7 Advanced Exterior Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Advanced Exterior Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of AES after its name.

### **6.5.8 Advanced Vehicle Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Advanced Vehicle Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of AVS after its name.

### **6.5.9 Excellent Container Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Excellent Container Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of ECS after its name.

### **6.5.10 Excellent Interior Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Excellent Interior Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of EIS after its name.

### **6.5.11 Excellent Exterior Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Excellent Exterior Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of EES after its name.

### **6.5.12 Excellent Vehicle Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Excellent Vehicle Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of EVS after its name.

### **6.5.13 Master Container Scent Detection Award**

After a dog has attained four qualifying Scent Detection Certificates for the Master Container Search, it is entitled to be awarded the suffix of MCS after its name.

## **6.6 Display of Scent Work Titles and Awards**

Only the highest Scent Work Title is to be displayed after a dog's name for catalogue purposes.

## **7. SCENT WORK TRIALS/GENERAL**

### **7.1 Scent Work**

Scent Work, based on the task of working detection dogs, is a positive, challenging activity that allows dogs to use their strongest natural sense in a way that is fun and engaging. Because it is an exercise that requires the dog to locate an odour and communicate this to the handler, it also establishes a building of trust between dog and handler.

Working as a team, while negotiating through a variety of environments, dogs are trained to indicate the location a specific odour by pawing, pointing or assuming a particular body position. While searching, the dog does all the active work while the handler offers only guidance and encouragement. Communication and praise of the dog during the search is greatly encouraged. When however, the dog indicates where it believes the odour is located, the handler informs and seeks corroboration from the judge.

### **7.2 Odour Search Class**

Dogs search for an odour of one or more specific Essential oils in a variety of environments known as “classes”. The Classes are:

- . Container searches. The target odour is concealed within a container, and the dog must indicate in which container the odour is hidden.
- . Interior searches. The target odour is concealed in an indoor search environment such as a room or rooms within a building and the dog must indicate the location of the target odour.
- . Exterior searches. The target odour is in an area having no greater than two walls and natural air flow patterns. The dog must indicate the location of the target odour.
- . Vehicle searches. The target odour is concealed in a wheeled apparatus. The dog must indicate the location of the Target odour.

### **7.3 Difficulty Levels**

Each Class has four levels of difficulty: Novice, Advanced, Excellent and Master. All dogs will begin at the Novice level and be entitled to advance as qualification titles in each class are awarded.

Dogs will be permitted to advance in separate classes simultaneously, at a speed determined by their qualification progress in each class. For example, a dog may participate in an Advanced Container search while also participating in Novice Interior searches.

Factors such as the size of the search area; number of hides; whether the number of hides is known or unknown to the handler, and the maximum height of the hides will determine the level of difficulty for each Class.

### **7.4 Odours**

#### **7.4.1 Dogs New Zealand Approved**

For each separate Class of search and their level of difficulty, a Dogs New Zealand approved Essential Oil must be used for Dogs New Zealand qualification purposes. These are:

- 7.4.1.1 Novice Searches – Essential Cedarwood Atlas Oil.
- 7.4.1.2 Advanced Searches – Essential Cedarwood Atlas Oil and/or Essential Lemongrass (organic) Oil.
- 7.4.1.3 Excellent Searches – Essential Cedarwood Atlas Oil and/or Essential Lemongrass (organic) Oil and/or Bergamot Oil.

7.4.1.4 Master Searches – Essential Cedarwood Atlas Oil and/or Essential Lemongrass (organic) Oil and/or Bergamot Oil and/or Clary-Sage Oil.

#### **7.4.2 Identical Essential Oils**

All Essential Oils used for Dogs New Zealand Scent Work exercises must be identical. For this reason, all Essential Oils must be the same brand and quality and purchased either directly from Dogs New Zealand or from a Dogs New Zealand approved Essential Oils retailer. Dogs New Zealand Approved Essential Oils and sources from which they may be obtained is listed on the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work website.

#### **7.5 Qualifying Process**

Handler-dog teams are judged on a qualify/non-qualify basis. The dog must use their nose to search out the hidden odour(s), and then alert their handlers when detected. In order to earn a qualifying certificate, the handler-dog team must find and call all hides in a search area within the time allowed for the class without committing any non-qualifying faults.

#### **7.6 Accessible and Inaccessible Hides**

A hide is considered accessible if it is in a location where the dog can reach it with his nose. If the dog is unable to place his nose on the hide, it is considered inaccessible. Since the reach of a dog varies with its height, a hide that is accessible for tall dogs may be inaccessible for shorter dogs.

#### **7.7 Handlers' Briefing**

The Scent Work Judge shall conduct a short participants' briefing prior to the start of each class. Such briefings are to take place in view of, but not within, the search area after hide(s) have been set. These briefings will include the Scent Work Judge providing the following information wherever applicable:

- a) If there is an off-lead option.
- b) Number of Hides in the Search Area (if Handlers are permitted to be given this information).
- c) Maximum height (where applicable) of hides.
- d) Number of different search areas (where applicable).
- e) Maximum time for the Search and whether a 30 second time remaining will be provided.  
A reminder to call 'Alert', accompanied by a raising of the hand to indicate that the location of each hides has been identified or 'Finish' where applicable.
- f) Basic review of the rules pertaining to the Class being conducted.

##### **7.7.1 Participant Questions**

Participants shall be encouraged to ask any questions about the search area during the participants' briefing time.

##### **7.7.2 Dogs at Briefings**

No dogs may be present during the participants' briefing.

#### **7.8 Judging schedule**

Participants within a Class shall be run in the order prepared by the hosting Association/Society before commencement of any Qualifying Scent Work Trial. The Scent Work Judge, if required, has the discretion to allow a dog to be judged out of sequence at the request of the participant if it is determined that a valid reason exists.

## **7.9 Display of Results**

The results for each class, including marks and Judge's name, must be displayed on the day and be accessible to all handlers.

## **8. APPROVED SCENT WORK CLASSES**

### **8.1 Eligibility for Entry – All Classes**

**8.1.1** All competitors, by entering, attest that their dogs have been adequately imprinted on the approved Essential Oil Odour for the class being entered.

**8.1.2** Dogs under 6 months of age are not eligible to compete.

**8.1.3** Handlers must be 14 years of age or older. Handlers younger than 14 years of age may compete but must be accompanied by a non-competing adult guardian for which spectator rules apply.

### **8.2 Specific Class Entry Criteria Prerequisites**

**8.2.1** Competitors cannot enter an Advanced, Excellent or Masters Class until they have qualified for the Award for the previous class. E.g. Must have Novice Container Search (NCS) to enable entry to an Advanced Container Search

### **8.3 Scent Detection Certificate**

**8.3.1** To obtain a valid Dogs NZ Qualifying Certificate, dogs will need to complete a successful Search.

### **8.4 Must Progress**

**8.4.1** Once your dog has gained the required Scent Work Qualifying Certificates for an Award in one Class, you are required to enter the next level Class, if available, at a Scent Work Trial.

**8.4.2** Eligibility to enter a Scent Work Class Level for any Scent Work Trial, is the level the dog is eligible for at midnight the day prior to the day specified in the Schedule for the closing of entries.

**8.4.3** If the higher-level class is not available, at a Scent Work Trial, the team may enter, at the Societies discretion, as a non-competitor entry.

## **9. JUDGING SCENT WORK CLASSES**

### **9.1 Consistent Hide Location**

In Odour Search Classes, the hide must remain in the same location for each handler, unless the hide location is contaminated or circumstances arise which, in the opinion of the Judge, otherwise require relocating the hide.

If the Judge determines that a hide, vehicle or other item must be relocated during the running of a class, it should be moved to a location that presents the same challenges as at the original location. The location of the original hide should be wiped, and the scent vessel or container must be left to stand in the new hide location for 15 minutes before the next dog. If the hide was placed on an item that cannot be removed, the previous placement must be clearly indicated. At least one other area of similar size, should also be wiped with an Enzymic cleaner.

#### **9.1.1 Hide Relocation Between Classes.**

A hide should be relocated between classes but must be left in the new location for 15 minutes before the first dog in the new class begins their search.

## **9.2 Participant looking for the Hide**

Participants should not be actively looking for the scent vessel during the search. This is the job of their dog, and for the participant to only read their dog and communicate to the Judge when their dog has found the hide. Any handler who actively looks for the hide may be faulted or disqualified by the Judge.

## **9.3 Confinement Within Search Area**

Boundaries must be clearly defined at a pre-trial briefing.

The search must start, continue, and finish within the confines of the designated search area. A team may however subsequently work outside the boundaries of the Search Area without penalty but must finish inside the Search Area.

### **9.3.1 Disruption of the Search Area**

A handler may not touch objects in the search area without express permission from the Judge. Breach of this rule may result in disqualification.

## **9.4 Barking/vocalisation**

Within reason as determined by the Scent Work Judge, a dog may bark or vocalise while participating in a search, without penalty. If the Scent Work Judge determines that the dog is barking out of frustration or is becoming overly disruptive in a way that threatens future use of the venue, the Scent Work Judge shall give the handler a warning, and if the handler is unable to get the dog to stop the disruptive behaviour within 10 seconds after the warning, the dog shall be excused from the search and disqualified.

## **9.5 Excused Dogs**

A dog which is excused from a search may, at the discretion of the Judge, still be permitted to participate in other classes in which the dog is entered on that day.

## **9.6 Timing**

Timing commences when handler or dog passes over a visibly marked start line and concludes when the handler indicates that they believe their dog has found the correct sample, indicated by visual and audible signal to the judge (as per 9.7.3 and 9.8).

### **9.6.1 Participants Using Timers**

Participants may wear watches or other timing devices in the search area, in order to be aware of the time remaining in their search. However, in no case may a participant use their own timing device to dispute the conclusion of the Timing Steward. The Timing Steward's time will always be determined as the official time.

### **9.6.2 Timer Malfunction**

In the case of a timer malfunction on a qualifying search, the handler will have two options:

- (a) The maximum search time may be recorded as their official time for that class; or
- (b) The handler may re-run the search at the end of the class. The first search outcomes will consequently be voided. The outcomes of the second search will be recorded as the trial result. That is, if the handler chooses to re-run the search for time and fails to complete a qualifying performance on the re-run, the team will be awarded a non-qualifying result.

### **9.6.3 Re-runs**

If a team chooses to re-run the search, the hide location(s) must be relocated and left to stand for 15 minutes prior to their search.

## **9.7 Alert**

### **9.7.1 Dog Indication**

No specific or formal alert behaviour is required from the dog, but there must be a change in behaviour from the dog such that the judge can tell that the dog has found the odour. The change in behaviour may be subtle (e.g., a turn of the head or twitch of the ears) or a clear change of behaviour or posture.

**9.7.1.1** If the dog is near the source of the odour, but it is not clear to the Scent Work Judge that the dog has communicated the exact location to the handler, the Scent Work Judge should ask “where?” The handler must then indicate the source of the odour by pointing or gesturing to an area within the prescribed size parameters.

### **9.7.2 Indication Parameters**

The Judge may use their discretion to allow for environmental factors.

### **9.7.3 Participant Indication**

The handler shall confirm the dog’s indication of the odour source with the word “Alert” accompanied by a raising of the hand (or another clear visual signal) when the dog indicates a find. If either a verbal confirmation is not possible due to environmental factors or a handler’s ability, the handler may inform the judge of an alternate confirmation, such as an obvious hand signal.

**9.7.3.1** If the handler alerts on a previously indicated hide, judge is to say, “already found” and handler is to continue their search.

**9.7.3.2** If the handler gestures to an area that is larger than the prescribed size parameters, the Scent Work Judge should ask the handler to indicate an area within those parameters.

### **9.7.4 Scent Work Judge Confirmation**

When the handler calls Alert, the Judge shall confirm with a “Yes” or “No”. If the dog is clearly indicating the source of the odour, the Scent Work Judge should respond “Yes” when the handler calls and signals Alert.

### **9.7.5 Incorrect Alert**

If the hide is not within the area that the handler indicates, the alert should be considered incorrect, and the team will not qualify.

### **9.7.6 Alert Confirmation for Inaccessible Hides**

For inaccessible hides, the dog is expected to get as close as possible to the inaccessible hide location. The participant must then gesture the location of the hide that is the closest the dog can possibly get to the inaccessible hide location.

**9.7.6.1** For a hide that is inaccessible due to a dog's height, the area that the participant gestures to need not encompass the location of the hide but must be on the same vertical axis. For hides that are inaccessible due to the dog's height, the prescribed size parameters should apply in ideal conditions, but a relaxed standard can be used if there are compelling environmental factors.

## **9.8 Finish**

### **9.8.1 Search Finish**

The "Finish" call is used in classes that contain an unknown number of hides and is required to stop the timing of the search.

**9.8.1.1** The handler is required to call "Finish" when they believe all hides have been located for the search area. If the handler fails to correctly call "Finish" prior to the expiration of the search time, the team will receive a non-qualifying score (NQ).

## **9.9 Search Set-up**

### **9.9.1 Start line.**

A visibly marked line will denote the start position.

### **9.9.2 Timing**

Dog must find the Target Odour within the time outlined for the Level and Class of Trial.

- All Novice Levels and Classes – Three minutes.
- Advanced Container – Three minutes. All other Advanced Classes - Four minutes.
- Excellent Container – Three minutes. All other Excellent Classes - Four minutes.
- Master Container – Three minutes. All other Masters Classes – Four minutes.

### **9.9.3 Teamwork**

The trial will be judged on the dog and handler working as a team. A participant may give verbal encouragement during the search and may touch their dogs as direction or praise, but may not guide the dog.

### **9.9.4 Qualifying/Non-Qualifying.**

Dogs shall be deemed to have qualified, providing they have found the scent within the time requirements for the Class being judged, and accrued no more than 3 penalty points (except in the event of disqualification).

### **9.9.5 Not Accessible.**

The handler's dog must not be able to make physical contact with the Target Odour. The Target Odour must be placed inside a sealed medical plastic or metal container (Scent Receptacle), no greater than 50ml in size with either 5 pin-size holes or a singular 5mm hole in its top to allow scent to be released or scent odour straw.

### **9.9.6 Target Odour Receptacles.**

The Target Odour receptacle may be magnetic or have magnets attached to it or be secured using tape or Velcro (provided this action does not obscure scent holes).

### **9.9.7 Target Odour Receptacle Placement.**

All Target Odour Receptacles should be placed in the desired location no less than 15 minutes before commencement of a Search trial. This applies also to any replacement receptacles.

### **9.9.8**

If a Vehicle, Interior or Exterior search area must be reused and the hide was placed on an item that cannot be removed, the previous placement area must be clearly indicated.

## **9.10 Penalties**

### **9.10.1 Penalty points may be applied for:**

- . Poor lead handling including unnecessary dropping of the lead, detaching the dog from lead when in the opinion of the presiding judge this was unnecessary and tangling of the lead.
- . Impeding the dog while it is searching.
- . Placing the dog in an unsafe situation.
- . Handler accidentally touching an object in the search area. No penalty shall apply however if the dog touches the container or article to either seek for or indicate the Target Odour location.
- . Dog knocking over or retrieving a container.
- . Dog picking up and mouthing of the Scent Receptacle.
- . Handler not giving both audible and visual alert.
- . An alert is called on a previous found hide.
- . More than once, the food or toy reward is used to reset/refocus the dog in the search.
- . Placement of an open food container on a preparation table or, within five-metres of the perimeter of a designated search area.

On each occasion a Fault occurs, this shall be recorded as a "Penalty" and used to establish whether a final Qualifying Search has been achieved.

### **9.10.2 A Non-Qualification will be recorded if:**

- . An "Alert" is given but Handler is unable to indicate where Target Odour is located.
- . An "Alert" is given at the wrong location.
- . Handler talks to the presiding Scent Work judge while in the search area, unless responding to a question asked of them by this Judge.
- . Team does not complete Search within the designated time.
- . Team equipment is non-compliant.

- Dog exhibits extreme stress or fear behaviour.
- Handler's dog is in the opinion of the presiding Scent Work judge believed to be unfit or incapable of participating without evidence to the contrary.
- Team fails to cross over the visibly marked start line.

#### **9.10.3 A disqualification will be recorded if:**

- Any handler or dog is found in any of the search areas before their search.
- A dog defecates or urinates in the search area.
- A container is destroyed (i.e., the judge deems the container unusable).
- A handler or dog shows aggression to others.
- Excessive corrections are displayed.
- Any person, other than the Judge, introduces scent samples into the search area.
- Any dropping of food or toy in the search area.
- 

#### **9.10.4 Reattachment of lead during off-lead search**

No penalty shall be awarded if a handler chooses to reattach their dog during an off-lead search.

#### **9.11 Harsh Handling**

In an extreme case of harsh handling the dog and handler may be disqualified from the Scent Work Trial and all its Classes held on that day.

#### **9.12 Exclusion by Scent Work Judge**

A Scent Work Judge may cease judging and request the removal of a dog if:

- A dog is deemed to be disorderly or unmanageable.
- A handler willfully interferes with another participant or their dog.
- A handler or dog's behaviour is considered objectionable.
- A Scent Work Judge considers the dog to be unfit to participate or unduly stressed.

#### **9.13 Handler to Handler Communication**

Handlers are not permitted to discuss details of a search with any other person participating in the same class, who have not yet completed the search. Any participants involved in such discussions will be immediately disqualified.

#### **9.14 Pre-trial Briefing**

Handlers shall be warned at the pre-trial briefing that they "may" be disqualified if the judge deems that the containers/articles have been unduly displaced or damaged.

## **10. GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF TRIALS**

### **10.1 Entry Forms**

A separate entry forms for each dog trialing must be completed in accordance with the provisions specified thereon and signed by the current owner. That owner's signature shall be deemed to bind the owner of the dog to the terms and conditions of entry and the Scent Work Rules and Regulations of Dogs New Zealand.

### **10.2 Informal Entries**

At the discretion of a Society hosting a Recognized Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Trial, they may accept entries from participants wishing to participate in a Scent Work Class they have previously qualified in with an understanding that such entries will not prejudice formal entries and shall not be recognized for qualification and placing purposes or attract prizes. Such entries shall however be recognized as an entry for Entry Limitation purposes and levies.

### **10.3 Entry Limitation**

At any Scent Work Trial, a dog may only enter a maximum of four classes per day which may be at separate levels.

A hosting society may determine a maximum number of entries permitted for each Qualifying Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Trial but shall not exceed the number of dogs permitted to be judged in accordance with 5.2.2. Priority must always be given to Dogs NZ members, handling registered Dogs New Zealand dogs.

### **10.4 Entry Fees**

Entry Fees, as set by each individual hosting society, shall be charged for Scent Work Trials.

### **10.5 Notification of Venue**

Trials handlers must be advised of the whereabouts of each trial and the time of the commencement of the trial each day by the hosting Society.

### **10.6 Handler Equipment**

#### **10.6.1 Collar or Harness**

For the duration of the Scent Work Trial, regardless of whether an on-lead or off-lead search is being conducted, all dogs must always be wearing a harness and/or collar. Any form of slip, electronic, prong or odour emitting collars are strictly prohibited, as is the use of head halters.

#### **10.6.2 Leads**

**10.6.2.1** Leads must not be longer than three metres and must not have a handle/loop.

**10.6.2.2** Leads may not be of a retractable or chain type.

**10.6.2.3** Leads must not be knotted or have clips or buckles other than what required is required to attach the line to the harness or collar.

#### **10.6.3 Booties and muzzles**

Use of booties and muzzles is permitted.

#### **10.6.4 On-lead**

When required, while in a search area, the dog must be on a lead the entire time.

## **10.7 Rewards**

- 10.7.1** When a dog correctly finds the hide, the handler may reward their dog with a food or toy. However, rewards may be used for the purpose of reward only and may not be used to bait or guide the dog toward a specific search location.
- 10.7.2** A handler may reward at or away from source. However, care must be taken not to contaminate the search area with any food particles or dog saliva.
- 10.7.3** A handler is permitted to use food or a toy in the scent area without incurring any penalties on one occasion only, in addition to those detailed above relating to rewarding after correct hide identification. Subsequent use of food or a toy will incur penalties.
- 10.7.4** If a toy is used, it must not be of a type that can make a noise, and it must always stay in contact with the handler (i.e., toys may not be thrown).

## **10.8 Contamination of the Search Area**

- 10.8.1** Any dropping of food or toy within 2m of the perimeter of the search area, while rewarding a dog shall be considered a contamination of the search area and its immediate surrounds.
- 10.8.2** Contamination of the search area or its immediate surrounds (within 2m of the perimeter of the search area) is regarded as a disqualification.

## **10.9 Cleaning Contamination in the Search Area**

If a search area is contaminated, every effort must be made to return the area to its original condition before the running of the next dog. Alternatively, a cone or coloured tape may be used to indicate a fouled area, and successive handlers shall be advised of its presence denoting a fouled area.

- 10.9.1** If a dog eliminates in an indoor search area, all surfaces or objects in the affected area must be thoroughly cleaned with an enzymatic cleaner. If a dog eliminates in an outdoor search area, any small, affected objects such as rocks or sticks should be removed, and the ground should be sprayed with an enzymatic cleaner. In either event, at least one other area, of similar size, should also be wiped with the same enzymatic cleaner.
- 10.9.2** If an area or object is contaminated by food residue or saliva, the food residue should be removed, and the area or object should be wiped down with water. Any container that is contaminated by significant food residue or significant saliva should be replaced.

## 11. INSTRUCTIONS TO SOCIETIES

### 11.1 Areas

#### 11.1.1 Search Area

A suitable sized search area determined by the Scent Work Judge; having regards to the Class and Level, shall be identified by highly visible boundary markers that are safe for officials, teams, and spectators.

**11.1.1.1 Layout of Search Area.** The Scent Work Judge will determine the layout of the search area and the placement of all hides in the search area, taking care to create a challenging course for each level, but one that is not unreasonably difficult.

**11.1.1.2 Preparation Table.** Where possible, a small, elevated platform may be located at no less than two (2) metres prior to the actual Search Area start line. At this station, handlers will be permitted to place their reward item (including food, which must be in a closed container, or toy) for the purpose of post search reinforcement. However, at no time must the reward article (including food or container) be permitted to contact the floor or ground surface.

Collars and Harnesses may also be permitted to be left on this table. Handlers must remove all articles at the conclusion of their Trial.

#### 11.1.2 Warm-up Area

If a warm-up area has been provided, this area must not be visible to the search area. This area may contain a Scent Receptacle containing the odour being used for the search and must be signposted using highly visible markers that are safe for officials and teams. Only one Handler/dog team at a time may use this area and are restricted to a two-minute duration immediately prior to entering the search area.

#### 11.1.3 Assembly Area

An Assembly Area signposted and not visible to the search area, within which teams initially assemble prior to being called to the Search Area, shall be identified by highly visible markers that are safe for officials and teams.

#### 11.1.4 Spectator Area

Other than for Novice Levels, at the Scent Work Judges discretion, a spectator's area may be set up using rope or tape to delineate the spectator area and prevent inadvertent entry into the Search Area.

**11.1.4.1** Any person not handling a dog in the current Class, or any person who has already completed their run in that class may be permitted to watch subsequent searches from the spectator area.

**11.1.4.2** Spectators are not permitted to discuss details of the search or share any video footage with any persons who are participating in the class observed and who have not yet completed the search. Any participant involved in such discussions will be immediately disqualified.

**11.1.4.3** Spectators are required to maintain a neutral stance so as not to deliberately or inadvertently provide clues to a handler/dog team in the Search Area as to where the hide(s) are. Should a Scent Work Judge feel double handling has occurred, they may either disqualify the participant or order a re-run to be conducted. Any spectators providing such assistance will be asked to leave the grounds immediately.

## 11.2 Equipment

**11.2.1** Provision of equipment. Except for Scent Receptacles, which must be provided by the Scent Work Judge, all containers and other equipment used (such as Velcro), must be provided by the host organisation along with additional containers and equipment should this become necessary for replacements such as contaminations.

### 11.2.1.1 Container Searches.

**Novice** - Twelve five-litre opaque plastic or metal containers, weighted with an approximate weight of 1kg to prevent dogs from nudging them over.

All containers are to be identical in shape and size, with a minimum height of 20cm, with each container having a covered/fitted lid with 8 – 10 holes of 5mm diameter to allow the dog to smell the scent but not access it.

**Advanced** - Sixteen containers of various types and sizes, each being of no less than 2 litre capacity, and weighted to prevent dogs from nudging them over.

**Excellent** - Twenty-one containers of various types and sizes, each being no less than 1 litre capacity, and weighted to prevent dogs from nudging them over.

**Master** - Twenty-eight containers of various types and sizes, each being no less than 1 litre capacity, and weighted to prevent dogs from nudging them over.

All container searches must be conducted on a level surface such as grass, concrete, or asphalt.

Identical surplus containers for replacement must also be available should any of the containers become damaged or contaminated.

**11.2.1.2 Target Containers.** Target Containers (i.e., the ones containing a Scent Receptacle) and containers containing non-food distractions should remain in the same position for all participants. However, the presiding Scent Work Judge may choose to move the Target Container, Distraction Container, or all containers if they deem this to be necessary (for example, a dog has ~~fouling~~ **fouled** near the containers).

### 11.2.1.3 Container placement.

**Novice** - Either in a single straight row of 12 (twelve) containers (known as 'Configuration A', a metre apart, and a metre on each side as well as at the end of the row or, two rows of 6 (six) containers (known as "Configuration B"), each row being 1.5 – 2 metres apart, as well as a 1 metre spacing on each side and end of the rows.

**Advanced and Excellent** - Placed in **equal rows**, with each row being 1.5 – 2 metres apart or, in a 2.5m diameter circle or, square or, "C" or, "L" or, "n" or, N or, "U" or, "V" shape formation with at least 50cm spacing between each container.

**Master** - Containers are placed in a random order with at least 50cm, but no greater than 2m spacing between them, within a regulation scent work area.

#### **11.2.1.4 Additional Items**

For Interior and Exterior Searches, the Presiding Scent Work Judges may also add to the Search Area, props to enhance interest and/or add complexity.

#### **11.2.1.5 Vehicle Searches**

For Novice Vehicle searches, there shall be one vehicle. For Advance Vehicle searches, there shall be two – three vehicles. For Excellent and Master Vehicle searches, there shall be three – four vehicles.

All vehicles must be thoroughly checked prior to a Scent Search Trial for fuel/oil leaks and fumes, and that they are not hot (from recent use). Neither should they have any sharp or protruding parts that could harm the dog.

### **11.3 Scent Receptacles**

**11.3.1 Scent Receptacle Number** in each Scent Work Class Trial shall be:

**Novice Level** – One Scent Receptacle

**Advanced Level** – Two Scent Receptacles

**Excellent Level** – Three Scent Receptacles

**Master Level** – One - Four Scent Receptacles

For Container Searches, no more than one Scent Receptacle or distraction may be placed in a single container.

**11.3.2 Scent Receptacle Placement**

Maximum height of Scent Receptacles placement above the Search Area level is:

All **Novice** Classes – 60cm.

All **Advanced** Classes – 90cm.

All **Excellent** Classes – 120cm

All **Master** Classes – 150cm

**11.3.2.1** A scent receptacle can be accessible or inaccessible at any level as long as the placement is consistent with the level of difficulty at that level.

**11.3.3** Scent Receptacles are to be constructed and supplied by the presiding Scent Work Judge, using only the approved Essential Oils for Dogs New Zealand Qualification purposes (refer 7.4.1)

**11.3.4** Scent Receptacles may be magnetic or be secured, providing the scent holes are not obscured).

**11.3.5** All Scent Receptacles should be placed in the desired location no less than 15 minutes before commencement of a Search Trial. This also applies to any replacement samples/containers.

**11.3.6** For Container searches, the Scent Receptacle should be placed inside the container.

For Interior searches, Scent Receptacle(s) may be hidden on, under, or in an Object, solid wall, door, or window within the Search Area, no less than 15 minutes before commencement of a Search Trial.

For Vehicle Searches, Scent Receptacles may only be placed on the vehicles frame (bumper, seams, and number plate), wheel (hubcaps/spokes), or in the wheel wells of

the vehicles. NEVER in the interior of a vehicle, or on its roof or bonnet. Neither should it be placed greater than 5 cm under a vehicle.

For all searches, a Handler's dog must not be able to make physical contact with the Scent Aid.

#### **11.4 Distractions**

**11.4.1** Except for Advanced, Excellent and Master Containers, NO intentional distractions are permitted in any other Level or Class.

For Advanced Container, one non-food distraction is to be placed in one of the containers (not containing a Scent Receptacle).

For Excellent Container, two non-food distractions are to be placed in separate containers (not containing a Scent Receptacle).

For Master Container, **up to** three non-food distractions are to be placed in separate containers (not containing a Scent Receptacle).

#### **11.5 Search Area Size**

##### **11.5.1 Container**

**Novice** - 40-50 m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 2.5m x 15.5m – 5m x 9.5m).

**Advanced** - 50 – 80m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 6m x 8m – 10m x 8m).

**Excellent** - 80 – 90 m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 10m x 8m – 10m x 9m).

**Master** - Minimum of 80m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 10m x 8m).

##### **11.5.2 Interior**

**Novice – One area** 45 – 70m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 7m x 7m – 8.5m x 8.5m). Areas may include an entire or partial area of a room. If a room is not fully utilized, the Search Area boundaries must be clearly defined.

**Advanced – One – Two adjoining areas** 50 – 90m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 7m x 7m – 9.5m x 9.5m).

**Excellent** - One - Two **adjoining** areas, total Search Area size is a minimum of **70** m<sup>2</sup>, but not exceeding 130m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 7m X 10m– 11.5m x 11.5m).

**Master - Two – Four adjoining areas**, total Search Area size is a minimum of **110** m<sup>2</sup>, but not exceeding 170m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 10.5m x 10.5m – 13m x 13m).

##### **11.5.3 Exterior Search**

Exterior Search Areas may be in a covered area but should have no more than two walls. Search Areas are required to be clearly defined.

**Novice** – 45 – 70m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 7m x 7m – 8.5m – 8.5m)

**Advanced** – 50 – 90m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 7m x 7m – 9.5m x 9.5m).

**Excellent** – 90 – 155m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 9.5m x 9.5m – 12.5m x 12.5m).

**Master** – 155 - 215m<sup>2</sup> (e.g. 12.5m x 12.5m – 14.5m x 14.5m).

#### **11.5.4 Vehicle Search**

Size of the Search Area will vary, depending upon the number and size of vehicles used. For Search Area designation purposed, the Search Area shall consist of a perimeter of 2m around the side of the vehicle. Vehicles must however be no less than 1.5m, and no greater than 2m apart.

Total Search Area is required to be clearly defined using markers.

### **11.6 Stewards**

#### **11.6.1 Hide Steward**

The Hide Steward, under the direction of the Judge, shall undertake the physical placement of the hides and any adjustment to the hides. The Hide Steward should wear latex or nitrile gloves when setting the hides. To minimize contamination, the Hide Steward is the only person who may handle the scent vessel or container, and the Hide Steward shall not handle any other objects in the search area. The Hide Steward should not be in the area when the team is searching.

In the event of a Hide Steward not having been appointed by the hosting Society, the presiding Scent Work Judge may act as their own Hide Steward.

#### **11.6.2 Call Steward**

All Scent Work Trials must have a Call Steward assigned to bring a waiting dog/handler team from the assembly area to the indicated search area start line.

#### **11.6.3 Time Steward**

All Scent Work Trials must have an assigned Time Steward who shall:

- a) Record the search time of each team. This includes the monitoring and recording the actual time (recorded to one-hundredth of a second) it takes the team to complete the search.
- b) Notify both the presiding Scent Work Judge and search Team when the maximum allowable time for Search has been reached.
- c) At the Judge's discretion, when feasible, provide a 30 second warning to the participant. If a thirty second warning is not to be given, then the judge **MUST** indicate this to participants during their initial briefing.

#### **11.6.4 Stewards to be Competent**

Stewards appointed to assist the Scent Work Judge must understand the Regulations concerning the Class for which they have been appointed.

#### **11.6.5 Stopwatch**

A stopwatch capable of measuring time to the hundredth of a second must be available for each Scent Work Trial. A backup stopwatch should also be immediately available if required.

### **11.7 Distractions**

Officiating Scent Work judges shall be responsible for the provisioning of required distractions when required, for specific Scent Work Classes.

### **11.8 Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Regulations**

Hosting Association/Society is responsible for ensuring a copy of the current version of the Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Regulations is available on request for referencing by an officiating Dogs New Zealand Scent Work Judge.

## GLOSSARY

*(Those definitions defined in **brown** are not definitions used yet in the current Regulations but may well become used as Scent Work becomes more developed).*

Where referred to in these Regulations, the following words will have the meanings assigned to them below:

**“Accessible Hide”**: A hide that a dog can pinpoint the exact location of (or as close as possible).

**“Affiliate”**: A group separate from but recognized by Dogs New Zealand as an organization that conducts Scent Work, and with who qualifications are cross credited.

**“Alert”**: A verbal and physical communication from the handler to the judge that the dog has indicated the location of the odour.

**“Alert Behaviour”**: see “Indication.”

**“Blank area”**: A search area in which there are no hides. The dog must search, and the handler must call “Finish” to proceed to the next search area.

**“Change of behaviour”**: Behaviour by the dog which makes it clear to the Judge and/or handler that the dog has found the odour. This could be subtle, such as movement of the ears, or overt such as sitting or pawing at the location.

**“Class”**: A specific type of search. This is also associated with its degree of difficulty (for e.g. Novice Container search or Advanced Interior search).

**“Container”**: A 5 litre plastic or metal receptacle with covered/fitted lids within which a scent container is placed. (see also Scent Container)

**“Contamination”**: When a handler or dog violates the integrity of the search area or hide such that significant time, replacement of objects, or a relocation of the hide is required to bring the equipment or search area back to required conditions.

**“Demonstration dog”**: A dog used for the purpose of demonstrating a class and level of difficulty that they have already earned a Scent Work title for. They are not however permitted to enter the same class being demonstrated, on the day of the Scent Work trial.

**“Difficulty level”**: Each class has four levels of difficulty. In ascending order these are: Novice, Advanced, Excellent, Master.

**“DNZ” or “Dogs New Zealand”**: A National Canine Organization which incorporates Affiliated Societies and Individual Membership. This includes clubs, organizations and members involved in canine training, for which they provide a governing role.

**“Excusal”**: When a team is asked to stop searching and leave the search area in response to specific conditions or behaviours on the part of the dog or handler.

**“Find”**: A hide that has been located by the dog and called by the handler.

**“Finish”**: The handler is required to call “Finish” when they believe all hides for a search area have been located and called. The “Finish” call stops the official search time.

**“Hide”**: A hide refers to an odour on a scent aid which has been placed in a scent vessel within a search area. Depending on the class and its level of difficulty, there may be multiple hides.

**“Hide Steward”**: The person who is in charge of placing the scent vessel in the location designated by the Scent Work Judge.

**“Inaccessible hide”**: A hide that the dog is not able to place his nose on. A hide can either be “inaccessible to all dogs” (such as hidden inside a drawer or on the backside of a piece of furniture against a wall), or “inaccessible to some dogs” (such as a high hide that short dogs would not be able to reach).

**“Indication”**: An indication (or “Alert behaviour”) indicated by the dog to communicate to its handler that the target odour has been found.

**“Lead”**: A lead must be no longer than three metres and not have a handle/loop or be of a retractable or chain type. Neither are they permitted to be knotted or have clips or buckles other than what is required for them to be attached to a harness or collar.

**“Odour”** or **“target odour”**: The specific Essential Oil scent or scents for which the dog is searching in a particular class.

**“Odour Search Class”**: Class of environment in which the search is being conducted.

**“Official Timer”**: Person responsible for monitoring the search time of each handler-dog team.

**“Reward/Training Aid”**: Any object or handler behaviour (such as a toy, food or petting) that serves to mark and encourage a dog to repeat a desirable behaviour.

**“Scent aid”**: A Scent Receptacle containing a cotton ball or cotton bud that is permeated with the target odour. These are then hidden in the search area.

**“Scent receptacle”**: A receptacle for holding the scent aid. This may be any small object that prevents the scent aid from coming into direct contact with any object or surface in the search area but allows the scent to escape. For safety reasons, scent vessels may never contain glass.

**“Search area”**: The area used where the actual searching and judging takes place.

**“Spectator”**: Any person who is not involved in the administration of the Scent Work trial and who otherwise only observes a team’s search performance.

**“Staging Area”**: An area on the trial grounds out of view of the search area(s). The staging area will include all parking, crating, warm-up, and waiting areas, as well as the secretary’s table for check-ins, and posting of running order and results. The staging area and search area(s) must be separated by geographical features, walls, and/or artificial barriers.

**“Start line”**: A clearly marked boundary beyond which the search area lies. A dog and their handler must cross the start line in order to begin the search.

**“Steward”**: A person who assists in the orderly conduct of the Scent Work trial. Some stewards may be required to work in the search area and act as assistants to the judge, while others will be required to work outside the search area and be responsible for ushering teams to the start line when it is their turn to search.

**“Target odour”** or **“Odour”**: A cotton ball or cotton bud that is permeated the specific Essential Oil or Oils used for which the dog is searching in a particular class. If cotton buds are used, only those with paper or bamboo stems (not plastic) may be used. The cotton buds should be cut in half, and the stems may be trimmed shorter, if preferred.

**“Team”**: Each handler and dog partnership entered in the Scent Work trial.

**“Time limit”**: Maximum amount of time allocated for each search. Searches not completed in the time specified will result in the team not qualifying.

**“Vehicle”**: The vehicle provided must be able to be driven or towed. If driven – no smaller than a ride on mower or golf cart. If towed no smaller than a standard six (6) X four (4) garden trailer (e.g. 1.8m X 1.2m) The vehicle provided must have suitable areas available for hide placements.