



**DOG EVENTS**

**OFFICIAL UKC  
NOSEWORK  
RULEBOOK**



**Effective January 1, 2015**

**UKC**  
UNITED KENNEL CLUB

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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UKC is the trademark of the United Kennel Club located in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The use of the initials UKC in association with any other registry would be in violation of the registered trademark. Notify the United Kennel Club, 100 E Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584, should you become aware of such a violation.

## Rules for Nosework Competition

Nosework is an uninterrupted performance by the dog and handler without direction from the official. The arrangement of the searches that are found in Nosework are randomly chosen and are similar to traditional working detection dogs. The team is evaluated on their ability to search for, locate, and respond to, target odors defined by the UKC Nosework Rulebook.

The overall performance should convey an image of fun, enthusiasm and the ability of the team to work in partnership. Nosework was created for the purpose of allowing any breed and type of dog to use their natural olfactory abilities to work in partnership with their handler and to respond to specific target odors modeled after working detection dogs. This activity provides a safe and enriching environment, can be easily performed in a wide variety of locations, and builds a trusting and lasting relationship between handler and dog.

The concept of Nosework is to provide the opportunity for all dogs and handlers, regardless of physical abilities, and physical structure, to participate in Nosework. All dogs under reasonable control as determined by the official should be able to participate in Nosework events. The dog is allowed unlimited communication, praise and encouragement from the handler without penalty and is judged on the overall execution and completion of each exercise.

**Exhibitor Guidelines.** It is the responsibility of all exhibitors to do whatever they can to assist the host club and promote the family atmosphere of UKC events and good sportsmanship. Exhibitors' clothing should be neat and clean. Their apparel speaks to the respect they have for the sport, the event and its proceedings. Exhibitors' dogs should be clean and, where necessary, brushed or trimmed to present a neat appearance. Experienced exhibitors should make an effort to help new exhibitors; the future of the sport is in the hands of the beginner. All exhibitors must display good sportsmanship and respect for others. Exhibitors should take care when discussing a score/placement with the judge and accept the decision of the judge gracefully. Remember, it was the judge's evaluation of THAT performance on THAT day. Exhibitors should always keep their area clean, dispose of all dog waste appropriately and leave an event site in the condition they found it. Every exhibitor is expected to know the rules before competing and be ready to abide by them.

Exhibitors are NOT allowed in the working areas of the trial until after they have run their search. If any exhibitor is found to be in the working areas prior to their run, they will be disqualified from the event for that day. Exhibitors are also prohibited from discussing any detail in relation to or the operation of the trial with any other exhibitor or spectator. This is to protect the integrity of the hides. The club may provide a waiting area that is away from the trial areas for exhibitors who are entered in the trial away from the working area. Handlers may carry their dog's reinforcer or reward with them during the search.

Exhibitors may choose one or two people to accompany them into the search area during the running of their dogs to video and/or photograph their performance. These people must remain in a designated area during the entire performance, with minimal movement (only movement required to video or photograph the run). Any interference or negative effect that results in a non-qualifying performance due to the additional people brought in by the handler will not be allowed a re-run. All videos are to be kept private until the completion of the trial, and all placements have been awarded for that trial.

## CHAPTER 1 GENERAL RULES

**Section 1. Jurisdiction.** The following rules and regulations governing UKC licensed Nosework events and the awarding of UKC Championship points, passing searches and titles issued by the United Kennel Club are uniform and are not given on a local or geographical basis. All UKC licensed Nosework events shall be governed by the *Official UKC Rules for Dog Events*, the *Official UKC Nosework Rulebook*, and the *UKC Misconduct and Discipline Guidelines for Dog Events*.

**Section 2. Eligibility of dogs.** To be eligible to compete in licensed Nosework classes dogs must be at least six months of age and permanently registered with UKC, or have a valid Temporary Listing (TL) number or Performance Listing (PL)/Limited Privilege (LP) number as of the day of the event. At a pre-entry only event, the dog must be permanently registered or have a valid TL or PL/LP number by the pre-entry deadline date of the event. Dogs with disqualifying conformation faults may compete in licensed Nosework classes.

Lame dogs, dogs that appear ill, females in season, and pregnant or lactating females may not compete in a Nosework trial. No dog that has sutures, bandages, adhesive or any other material that is indicative of, or related to, any surgical or medical procedure may compete in a Nosework trial. No dog may have anything attached to it for adornment. Should any dog compete in a Nosework trial while in any condition listed above, the officials shall excuse the dog from competition and mark the reason in the official's book. Dog accessories such as, but not limited to, elastic ties, small plain barrettes, booties, or clothing may be used so long as it does not interfere with the dogs performance or affect the integrity of the hides. Any accessory that the official believes will interfere with the performance or trial must be removed prior to the dog entering the search area(s). The official's decision in the matter is final.

Females in season: The host club has the option of refunding the entire entry fee or retaining 50% of the fee as a processing fee for any Nosework competitor who provides a veterinarian's certificate verifying that the female came into season after the pre-entry deadline date for entries. The certificate may be mailed, provided the post-mark is no later than the date prior to the day of the trial, or delivered by hand to the Event Secretary before the published start time of the trial.

Pregnant females, lactating females or females that are so distracting to males to cause a disturbing element must be excused by an official and the reason marked in the official's book. The official's decision is final and need not seek the opinion of a veterinarian.

Deaf dogs, blind dogs, and dogs that have lost use of or are missing all or part of one or two limbs may participate in Nosework trials but must be able to perform all required exercises. An official may excuse a dog missing a limb for lameness only if the official determines that the dog is stiff or sore in one or more of its remaining limbs. The official's decision is final and they need not seek the opinion of a veterinarian.

**Section 3. Eligibility of Owners/Handlers.** Nosework handlers may be any age provided the handler is able to control the dog. An official may excuse a dog at any time if they believe the handler is unable to control the dog. The official's decision is final. Handlers under the age of 18 may compete as a Junior Handler. A Junior Handler may not have reached their eighteenth birthday as of January 1 of the competition year. After

December 31 of the year in which a junior turns 18, they may no longer participate as a junior. A club may request verification of the Junior Handler's age. Junior Handlers are responsible for notifying the Event Secretary/Manager of their participation upon checking in at the event. Handlers under 18 years of age do not have to be a member of the UKC Junior program in order to compete but will not be eligible for awards or acknowledgements that UKC Junior members are eligible for.

**Exhibitors with more than one dog entered in a trial.** Exhibitors may handle only one dog in each class, or element in each trial. An exhibitor may enter more than one dog in the same class or element so long as a separate handler is provided for each dog. Exhibitors may enter and handle more than one dog per trial provided the additional dog(s) are entered in a different class or element from all other entries being handled by that exhibitor.

**Physically Challenged Handlers.** Physically challenged handlers may use a wheelchair, crutches or a cane in the trial area, but must be able to move around the trial area without physical assistance from another person. The official may modify an exercise to the extent that it assists the handler provided that no modification may be made that gives any advantage to the handler's dog or that changes the dog's part of the required exercise in any way.

**Section 4. Eligibility of Dogs Owned by Officials and Immediate Family/Household of Officials.** Official UKC Rules for Dog Events will apply, except the term "Judge" and "Judging" shall be replaced by the terms "Official" and "Officiating". Certifying officials and Hide Officials may have a dog they own or co-own exhibited by a family member or someone else in any event, but not in any element they are judging in a trial they are officiating. The back-up official system for performance events must be in place for an assigned official's dog that they own or co-own to be exhibited in the event in which they are officiating.

**Section 5. Back-Up Certifying Official System.** Nosework officials' dogs may compete in the same trial that they are assigned to under the following provisions:

- a. The official must notify the club in advance that they wish to enter a dog in an event they are assigned to officiate.
- b. The host club must designate a Chief (Head, Lead) certifying official and a back-up certifying official on the event application. The chief certifying official shall be the overall authority for officiating the event.
- c. Dog(s) owned by the chief certifying official may compete only under the assigned back-up certifying official. The back-up certifying official may only officiate for the chief certifying official (and/or immediate family/household members of the certifying official) and may not officiate for any other exhibitors entered in that event.
- d. Officials are prohibited from interrupting their assignment in order to exhibit. Officials may coordinate when they will exhibit based on the event specific rules in which officials are entered/officiating.
- e. Officials competing in the events in which they are officiating will not be eligible for placements, awards or All-Star points as per the event specific rules in which they are entered/officiating.
- f. Assigned back-up certifying officials will be eligible for awards, placements, All-Star and Championship points.

**Section 6. Emergency Replacement of Back-Up Certifying Official.** Should an assigned back-up certifying official fail to appear at an event in which they were assigned as the designated back-up certifying official there will be no emergency replacement of the back-up certifying official's assignment if there is no other fully licensed certifying official at the event. In this case, the Chief certifying official will forfeit their entry and fulfill their assignment. If an event was published in the UKC Upcoming Events on the UKC website (ukcdogs.com) as having a back-up certifying official, and if a fully licensed certifying official is in attendance at an event where the assigned back-up certifying official did not appear the certifying official in attendance may serve as the back-up certifying official. Clubs must note the change in back-up certifying officials and provide a detailed explanation of the circumstances in their event report.

**Section 7. Entering a UKC Nosework Event.** Entries to all events for licensed classes must be submitted using the most current official UKC entry form. Entry forms must be complete when submitted to the Event

Secretary/Manager, including a valid UKC Permanent Registration number, UKC Performance Listing (PL)/Limited Privilege (LP) number or UKC Temporary Listing (TL) number. Incomplete or unsigned entry forms, or entries unaccompanied by entry fees, are invalid and are to be refused by the Event Secretary/Manager.

All Nosework classes, and elements do not have to be offered at every licensed Nosework trial. UKC Nosework titles may only be earned in licensed classes. Elements may be officiated in any order as determined by the host club, classes must be offered lowest to highest when offering individual elements. The run order must be published in the official event announcement/premium list, and in the Upcoming Events section of the UKC website.

**Section 8. Entry Limits.** Officials should not be scheduled to officiate for more than 8 hours per day based on the number of entries completed per hour for a trial. If entries for Nosework exceed the eight-hour time limit before the pre-entry deadline date, clubs must get written approval from UKC to exceed the eight-hour judging time limit and establish a wait list. An overflow official should be hired if entries exceed the entry limit by 2 hours. Clubs should make every effort to ensure that officials' assignments do not exceed eight hours.

An Official's judging time will be based on the following number of entries completed per hour for each of these types of trials:

- a. Pre-trial, Handler Discrimination, and Individual Element - number of entries completed per hour 16; maximum daily limit approximately 125 entries.
- b. NN - EN - number of entries completed per hour 5; maximum daily limit approximately 45 entries.

**Overflow Official.** If the limit is exceeded by at least 2 hours before the pre-entry deadline date, the club should hire an overflow official. The overflow official must be requested and approved by the UKC in writing. The club must have made arrangements with an approved official for the overflow assignment and submit that official with the request. The club will assign the duties of the overflow official for that trial. If a Back-Up Certifying Official has been assigned this official may also act as an over-flow official if qualified. The overflow official may also act as the backup official if qualified.

**Wait List.** Clubs may accept entries over the limit provided they establish a "wait list" of all entries over the limit in the order they are received. The first person listed on the waitlist will be given the first opportunity to be entered in the trial in the event of a cancellation of a pre-entered dog. On the day of the trial, if any of the pre-entered dogs are absent, the absentees will be replaced by the first person on the wait list that is present and ready to compete. Clubs must refund the entry fees for all the exhibitors on the wait list who do not get the opportunity to compete.

**Section 9. Temporary Listing (TL) Numbers.** TL numbers are only valid at conformation, performance and Pointing Dog events. TL numbers may be purchased at an event that has been approved to sell TL numbers. If a club is approved to sell TL numbers, it will be published with the event information, on the UKC website and in any official announcement of the club's event. If the event is held on a week day, the Temporary Listing numbers may also be purchased and issued on the same day by contacting the UKC Dog Events Department within normal business hours. All Temporary Listing Numbers are non-refundable, non-transferable, and do not apply to the cost of permanent registration or Performance Listing numbers. Temporary Listing numbers may not be available for purchase for all UKC Registered breeds. Before purchasing a TL number be sure to check with UKC if there are any restrictions applicable to the breed.

A Temporary Listing (TL) number may be issued to approved breeds eligible for single registration with UKC; not all breeds are eligible. Contact the UKC Registration Department for the most current information regarding which breeds are approved for single registration. Spayed or neutered purebred dogs, mixed-breed dogs and dogs that are eligible for a Performance Listing number may be issued a TL number. Dogs that have previously been issued a UKC permanent registration or Performance Listing number will not be issued a TL number.

Temporary Listing Numbers must be assigned on or before the show date. TL numbers that are issued after an event will not be valid for that event nor are TL numbers valid for any events that occurred prior to the purchase of the TL number.

There is no limit to the number of licensed events that a dog with a TL number may be entered in before the dog is permanently registered/listed with UKC. TL numbers are no longer valid once a dog is permanently registered/listed with UKC.

TL numbers included on the application for permanent registration or the Performance Listing application will automatically have any wins, titles earned, Top Ten points, and/or All Star points applied to the dog's permanent record. No wins, titles earned, Top Ten Points and/or All Star points will be awarded until a dog with a TL number has been permanently registered/listed. Temporary Listing numbers are not valid for any event held under the rules that govern licensed Coonhound or Beagle events.

#### **Section 10. Class Restrictions.**

No dog may be entered more than once in the same Nosework class at the same trial.

No dog may be entered in more than one section ("A" or "B") of the same class.

No dog may be entered in the "A" section of any two Nosework classes at the same trial.

Once a dog has obtained its Nosework title for a class, the dog may continue to compete in that class provided the dog is only entered and competes in section "B".

Once a dog has earned a Master individual element title, they are no longer eligible to compete at Novice, Advanced, or Superior levels for that element. Also once a dog has earned the MN title, it may no longer compete in any Novice – Superior classes, but may continue to compete in Master level indefinitely provided the dog is entered and competes in the section "B" class.

Once a dog has earned an Elite individual element, title they are no longer eligible to compete at Novice, Advanced, or Superior levels for that element. Also once a dog has earned the EN title, it may no longer compete in any Novice – Superior classes, but may continue to compete in both Master Nosework and Elite Nosework indefinitely provided the dog is entered and competes in the section "B" classes.

Nosework officials, professional and/or amateur Nosework instructors are only eligible to enter in the B section of all Nosework classes.

**Section 11. Class Changes.** Any dog that has, according to the owner's records, completed the requirements for a UKC title may be shown at the next level of competition at the first event following the completion of the title. Where two events are held concurrently, a dog completing the requirements for a title at Show/Trial 2 cannot be moved to the next level of competition for Show/Trial 1. In this case, if any exhibitor chooses to compete in Show/Trial 1, they must do so in the lower class. Dogs completing title requirements at Show/Trial 1 may move to the next level of competition for Show/Trials 2, provided they follow the club's class change/move up policy and the next level class is available and has not begun.

Class change requests or corrections to any entry form must be done in writing. The exhibitor must complete an Official UKC Class Change/Entry Correction Form as provided by the club. The Event Secretary/Manager must attach the form to the original entry. Class changes must be completed no later than one-half hour prior to the start of any regular judging on the day of the Show/Trial. In the case of a club running two shows/trials simultaneously, the club must post its class change policy at the entry table and the Event Secretary/Manager's table on the Day of the show, or publish the class change policy in the Judging schedule.

Owners who move their dog to the next level of competition prior to being notified by UKC that their dog has met the title requirement do so at their own risk. If the owner's records are incorrect, all passing searches and points earned while competing at the higher level of competition shall be disallowed.

**Section 12. Judging Schedule.** Start times will be published for all Nosework events. At pre-entry only trials, the start of judging begins after the handlers meeting and familiarization of the testing area. For all other trials, the start of judging begins after the handlers meeting and familiarization of the testing area or as soon as

possible thereafter if there are a large number of day-of-trial entries. No dogs are to be judged prior to the published start time in the Upcoming Events listing at [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com) or in the Judging schedule.

Dogs must be run in numerical order, according to the armband number assigned by the Event Secretary/Manager, except that an official has the discretion to allow a dog to be judged out of sequence at the request of the handler; in all other instances, dogs should be present at their designated area at the time of judging. Officials are not required to wait for dogs. It is preferred that Nosework be done in a separate area from any other events due to the nature of scent discrimination that is being performed by the dog. If an event site can only accommodate one exhibition area and there are multiple events scheduled, Nosework must be held first.

If the published official cancels their assignment prior to the day of the event, the club must make every reasonable effort to notify exhibitors of the change and offer refunds to all pre-entered exhibitors who submit a written request for refund of their entry fee(s). Official changes must be viewable at the event site during event hours. If, on the day of the event, an official is unable to start or complete his/her assignment, the Event Chairperson must appoint an emergency replacement official.

**Section 13. Officiating Procedures.** The official may use whatever reasonable procedures they deem necessary to evaluate the dogs in an effective and efficient manner. UKC Officials are encouraged to discuss placements of hides with exhibitors after the trial is complete and all dogs have run. Officials may not ask an exhibitor any questions regarding the dog being evaluated other than age. The official is responsible to verify that the passes are accurate and sign the official's book before awards are handed out. Upon the completion of the official's assignment, the official is required to return the completed official's books to the Event Secretary/Manager. The Event Secretary/Manager must provide the official with one copy of the signed official's book prior to the official leaving the show grounds, on the day of their last assignment. The official is required to keep all of their official's books on file for a period of one year after their assignment.

**Section 14. Facility Requirements.** All Nosework working areas must provide a firm and safe footing for dog and handler. Grass surfaces must be mowed so that the grass is short and as level as possible. Working areas may be designated as such, or marked off with caution type tape, paint, cones, ring ropes, gates, chalk lines or any clear visual demarcation acceptable to the CO. Staging areas must be provided for exhibitors waiting to compete. The staging area must be monitored by a steward. To facilitate the official designing a search area that fits the working area, the club is responsible for providing them with the exact dimensions of the working area no less than 60 days prior to the first day of the trial. After determining the size and shape of the trial area on which the elements are to be located, the official should select appropriate search patterns or search areas that are compatible with that location. Specific patterns or search areas are not required in the designing of Nosework courses. Not all Nosework search patterns and components are going to be the same.

**Section 15. Placements, Awards, and Ribbons.**

**Class Placements.** The official shall give up to four placements, for passing scores in each section of each class, based on the dog's number of faults, and running time except for all Pre-trial classes which will not be placed. First place must be awarded to the dog with the least amount of faults and the fastest time; second place to the dog with the next least amount of faults and fastest time; and so forth. Placements will continue by determining the least amount of faults and then by time. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults. If two or more dogs have the same number of faults the winner shall be the dog with the fastest running time (least amount of elapsed time). If the dogs remain tied, the tie shall stand.

**High In Trial.** The High In Trial award is given to the dog that has the fastest running time of all dogs competing in the trial that earn passing scores in their event. When two dogs competing in the trial have the same time, regardless of the class or section in which it was earned, the tie shall stand.

**High Scoring Junior.** All clubs hosting a Licensed Nosework trial must offer a High Scoring Junior. Any Junior competing in a licensed Nosework trial and who earns a pass will be eligible to compete for High Scoring Junior. The Junior whose dog passed with the fastest actual search time will be named High Scoring Junior. Juniors are required to follow all official Nosework rules.

**Cash prizes.** UKC clubs may offer cash prizes at performance events without prior written authorization from UKC. Cash prizes include but are not limited to: cash awards, gift cards, and gift certificates.

**Awards and trophies.** Clubs may offer such awards and trophies as they choose; however, awards and trophies given by a club must be given consistently to all winners at the same level. Clubs may accept trophies donated by individuals or other organizations and these trophies may be designated for specific breeds or specific accomplishments. All awards and prizes must be made available prior to the event and must be offered to be won outright.

**Ribbons and Rosettes.** All ribbons and rosettes must include the UKC Seal of Merit. The following ribbon colors and combinations are mandatory. Ribbons awarded for all other wins must be any other colors or combination of colors.

Section A, Section B, and Junior Handler ribbons will be awarded separately as follows:

**Nosework Trial Ribbon Colors:**

- 1st place – blue
- 2nd place – red
- 3rd place – green
- 4th place – yellow
- Passing search – light blue
- High in Trial – purple, gold & white
- High Scoring Junior – gold & purple

**Match Ribbon Colors:**

- 1st place – rose
- 2nd place – brown
- 3rd place – light green
- 4th place – gray
- Passing Search – any other color not listed above
- High In Match – any other color not listed above.

**Section 16. Start Times and Timing.** Each dog/handler team should be ready and waiting on deck before their turn for each search element. The official will verify that the timing steward(s) are ready prior to allowing the dog and handler teams to begin their search. All dog and handler teams must start behind a clearly designated Start Line. Judging and timing begins when the handler commands the dog to search or when any part of the dog and handler team crosses the start line. Timers may give a warning when 30 seconds are remaining in all levels. They may also give a 10-second warning at the Superior, Master and Elite levels. Timers will make every effort to give the warnings, but situations may arise when a warning is not given. It is the responsibility of the handler to be aware of the time that is remaining during their search.

As the team begins, the official will position themselves so that they can easily view the performance of the dog and handler team without interfering. The official will not assist the handler under any circumstances. Questions or concerns should be addressed with the official during the handlers' meeting and familiarization of the testing area. Once the trial has begun, any questions must be directed to the stewards. Officials may clarify these questions if needed.

Officials will not call any faults during the performance.

Maximum times for each element will be assigned, announced and discussed in the handlers' meeting. Maximum assigned element times for all classes will be determined by the specific competition and should not be exceeded. The actual search time will be recorded as the time for the dogs search. The dog must locate every hide and the handler must call every alert within the allotted element time to receive a passing search. Each search requires that the handler state "alert", "finish", or "clear" to stop the actual search time. The exhibitor's "finish" or "clear" call must be used correctly during interior element searches with two or more search areas, or the team will be assessed a "fail".



Two timers will be used for Superior through Elite level classes and trials. The first timer will be used to record the dogs' actual search time. The actual search time will start when the dog is given the search command or when any part of the dog and handler team crosses the start line, and will stop when the handler calls "Alert", "finish" or "clear". The actual search time will begin again when the handler gives the dog the next search command. All searches will be performed until all hides have been located or the team has been deemed ineligible to continue. The second timer will keep track of the assigned element time. The assigned element time will start when the search command is given or when any part of the dog or handler team crosses the start line and will continue until the dog finds all hides, or the assigned element time is met at which time the team will not be allowed to continue searching. Assigned element times may not be exceeded.

**Section 17. Faults.** Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Faults can be, but are not limited to :

**Handling errors.** Any action or cue that causes the canine or dog team to perform incorrectly. Pulling a dog off odor, or intentionally blocking an odor, would be an example of a handler error. Faults will not be given to minor infractions or poor handling such as tangling leash, mistakenly blocking odors, etc.

**Incorrect Response.** In a controlled environment, the dog responds as if a trained odor was present when it is known that it is not. The dog can respond in an incorrect area due to a handler cue, time and distance issues, and novel stimulus. Alerting when entering the scent cone instead of air scenting and working the odor to the source is an example of an incorrect response.

**Fringe Response.** The dog has a training deficiency and responds on lower thresholds of odor and is not able to work odor truly to source.

**Stronger concentration of odor.** Dog responds on a collected pool of odor in an area away from source. This is caused due to wind blowing the odor from the actual source and into another area that catches the odor. With time the area where odor begins to collect and pool becomes a larger quantity of odor that is actually greater than the actual source.

**Compromising the Search Area.** A fault may be assigned if the official determines that the reward delivery may have compromised the integrity of the search area. Handlers should be very careful not to contaminate the search areas with their rewards, or to touch surfaces and objects in search areas.

**Safety, violations, and other infractions.** At the official's discretion, faults will be given for any of these circumstances. Examples might be, but are not limited to, taking the dog off leash in a leash only search area, allowing the dog in or under a vehicle during the vehicle search, and/or allowing the dog to be put in an unsafe situation.

**Section 18. Non-qualifying faults.** The following faults will result in a non-qualifying search for all Nosework trials and classes:

**Incorrect calls.** A non-qualifying fault will be assessed for all incorrect calls. A dog and handler team will not be permitted to continue searching if an incorrect call is made for that element. An example of an incorrect call would be the owner calling "alert" when the dog enters an "area of interest."

**False Alerts.** Handler in a Nosework trial calls an "Alert" when there is no odor but the dog has indicated, or when the room has odor but the dog indicates in the wrong area.

**Miss/Non-indication.** When the dog fails to alert or exhibit the trained behavior in the known presence of the target odor on which the dog was trained.

**Timed Out.** If the handler stops the search, or the dog exceeds the assigned element time the search will be marked as a NQ on the officials books. The dog will not receive any credit for any element where they are "timed out."

**Excused.** If the official stops the search it will be marked as excused. If the dog eliminates during any portion of the search, the dog and handler team will be excused and will not be allowed to continue on, or continue in any additional elements of the trial. During individual element competition where a club hosts more than one element at the same trial, dogs may compete in a different individual element for that trial but may not continue in the element where the elimination occurred. **Dog marked excused or absent for an entire search or part of a search in the case of NN – EN trials will not receive any credit for that trial.**

**Absent.** A dog will be marked absent for the entire trial if they are marked absent for one or more elements during a NN - EN trials. This applies if the handler decides to withdraw from any element at any time.

## **CHAPTER 2 NOSEWORK TITLES, CLASSES, AND SECTIONS**

**Section 1. Nosework Titles.** Nosework titles may be earned only in licensed Nosework events. Nosework titles must be earned successively. Equivalent titles from other venues must not be substituted for Nosework titles or for determining eligibility for a class but they may be used to determine a dog's eligibility for section A or section B divisions of that class.

**a.)** This section is for true beginners of the sport. This section is open to all exhibitors and dogs that have not earned a title in the element in which they are entering or equivalent title in another organization, The exhibitor must own the dog entered or be a member of the owner's household or immediate family. Once the dog has earned the title they may no longer compete in the "A" section. No licensed or professional dog trainer or Nosework instructor, regardless of the person's status as an amateur or professional, may compete in this section. No person licensed to officiate Nosework in UKC or any other organization may compete in this section.

**b.)** Any dog or handler that is qualified is eligible to compete in Section B. Dog and handler teams may continue to compete in this section indefinitely. The exhibitor does not need to own the dog entered.

**Section 2. UKC Nosework Title Certificates and Official Notification.** Once the requirements for a Nosework title have been met and recorded, UKC will automatically mail a Certificate of Honor indicating the award to the dog's recorded owner. The owner shall be deemed notified as of the mailing date of the title certificate.

**Section 3. Nosework Handler Discrimination.** This title must be earned from the A or B sections of the Handler Discrimination class or any combination of the two. To earn this title, a dog must earn three qualifying passes at three different UKC licensed Nosework trials. A qualifying pass requires the successful completion of all hides and not more than one (1) fault. There is no restriction on the number of qualifying passes that may be earned under the same official.

**Section 4. Handler Discrimination – Novice (NHD).** This title must be earned from the A or B section of the Novice class or any combination of the two.

**Section 5. Handler Discrimination – Advanced (AHD).** This title must be earned from the A or B section of the Advanced class or any combination of the two.

**Section 6. Handler Discrimination – Excellent (EHD).** This title must be earned from the A or B section of the Excellent class or any combination of the two.

**Section 7. Pre-Trial Class. PTN, PTA, PTS, PTM, PTE.** All dogs must earn the Pre-trial (PT) before being allowed to compete at that level in an Individual Element or Novice Nosework (NN) through Elite Nosework (EN) class. Dogs that have passed their Odor Recognition Test (ORT) from the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW) are not required to earn a (PT) for the odor(s) they have passed in NACSW. Proof of Odor Recognition Tests from the NACSW must be included with the entry form when entering any trial if the dog has not earned a PT or any other UKC title for odors that will be used in the trial.

Only one pass is required for each level Novice - Elite and levels can either be done separately or one after another during the same Pre-Trial class. A club is only required to hold pre-trial classes for the odors being tested in that trial. If all 5 odors are offered by the host club dogs have the opportunity to pass all 5 odors at the same pre-trial. Dogs must be proficient in all 5 odors if the handler enters the dog in all 5. This is a pass/fail

class. No placements are given at this level. The Novice Pre-Trial level will always be run first, followed by Advanced, Superior, Master and Elite. A dog that has earned its Pre-trial - Novice title (PTN) may enter all of the Novice Individual Elements and NN trials. If a handler receives a Pre-Trial Elite (PTE) they are eligible for all levels of the Individual Element trials and the NN-EN trials. To pass a Pre-Trial class the handler and official should be able to notice a change in behavior of the dog, signaling an alert, but a pre-defined response signaling the alert is not required. All Pre-Trial searches must be completed on leash.

All licensed Nosework trials are required to offer a Pre-trial before the start of a licensed trial. Pre-trials may also be held independently of individual element and NN-EN trials. There is no restriction on the number of levels that may be passed under the same official.

**Section 8. Individual Element Classes – Container, Interior, Vehicle, Exterior.** These titles must be earned from the Novice, Advanced, Superior, Master and Elite Individual Element classes. To earn the individual element title a dog must earn two passes at two different UKC licensed Individual Element trials. A pass requires the successful completion of all hides within the class and not more than one (1) fault. Element titles may be earned in any order within each class. There is no restriction on the number of passes that may be earned under the same official. Owners may not enter more than one dog in the same class of a specific element, but can enter the same dog or a different dog in a different class of the same element at the same trial. (i.e. Jane Doe cannot enter both Rex and Fido into a Novice Container at the same trial, but she can enter Rex into Novice Container and Fido into an Advanced Container class at the same trial.)

- a.) **Novice: NC, NI, NV, NE.** This title must be earned from the A or B section of the Novice class or any combination of the two. Once a dog has earned all four elements (Containers, Interior, Exterior, and Vehicles) at the Novice level they will be granted a Novice Nosework (NN) title.
- b.) **Advanced: AC, AI, AV, AE.** This title must be earned from the A or B sections of the Advanced class or any combination of the two. The Novice level element title must be earned within that element before the dog is eligible to earn legs toward that Advanced Element classes. Once a dog has earned all four elements (Containers, Interior, Exterior, and Vehicles) at the Advanced level they will be granted an Advanced Nosework (AN) title.
- c.) **Superior: SC, SI, SV, SE.** This title must be earned from the A or B sections of the Superior class or any combination of the two. The Advanced level element title must be earned within that element before the dog is eligible to earn legs toward the Superior Element classes. Once a dog has earned all four elements (Containers, Interior, Exterior, and Vehicles) at the Superior level they will be granted a Superior Nosework (SN) title.
- d.) **Master: MC, MI, MV, ME.** This title must be earned from the A or B sections of the Master class or any combination of the two. The Superior level element title must be earned within that element before the dog is eligible to earn legs toward the Master element classes. Once a dog has earned all four elements at the Master level they will be granted a Master Nosework (MN) title. Once a dog has received a Master Nosework (MN) title they may no longer compete in Novice, Advanced, or Superior Individual Element classes, or any Novice Nosework through Superior Nosework trials.
- e.) **Elite: EC, EI, EV, EE.** This title must be earned from the A or B sections of the Elite class or any combination of the two. The Master level element title must be earned within that element before the dog is eligible to earn legs toward the Elite element title. Once a dog has earned all four elements at the Elite level they will be granted an Elite Nosework (EN) title. Once a dog has received an Elite Nosework (EN) title they may no longer compete in Novice, Advanced, or Superior Individual Element classes, or any Novice Nosework through Superior Nosework trials.

**Section 9. Nosework Trial Levels - NN, AN, SN, MN, EN.** These titles must be earned from the A or B sections of each level or any combination of the two, or by completing two passing searches in all four individual elements at the same level. To earn these titles when competing in a Nosework trial, a dog must earn two (2) passes in all four elements at a minimum of two different UKC licensed Nosework trials. A dog does not have to pass all four elements at each trial to earn a qualifying pass toward a title. Dogs will be credited for all elements they pass at any NN-EN trials. There are no restrictions on the number of passes that may be earned under the same official. A pass requires the successful completion of all hides in an element. To be eligible for placements and awards a dog must pass all four elements at a Nosework trial. Owners may not enter more than one dog in a Nosework trial. Dogs that have earned the MN and EN titles are ineligible to compete in NN-SN classes.

- a.) **Novice Nosework (NN).** This title must be earned from the A or B sections of the Novice Nosework class or any combination of the two.
- b.) **Advanced Nosework (AN).** This title must be earned from the A or B sections of the Advanced Nosework class or any combination of the two. A dog must have earned the Novice Nosework title before it is eligible to enter the Advanced class.
- c.) **Superior Nosework class (SN).** This title must be earned from the A or B sections of the Superior Nosework class or any combination of the two. A dog must have earned the Advanced Nosework title before it is eligible to enter the Superior class.
- d.) **Master Nosework Class (MN).** This title must be earned from the A or B sections of the Master Nosework class or any combination of the two. A dog must have earned the Superior Nosework title before it is eligible to enter the Master class.
- e.) **Elite Nosework Class (EN).** This title must be earned from the A or B sections of the Elite Nosework class or any combination of the two. A dog must have earned the Master Nosework title before it is eligible to enter the Elite class.
- f.) **Nosework Champion (NCH).** This title must be earned from the B sections of the Master and Elite Nosework classes. A dog must have earned the Elite Nosework title before it is eligible to earn legs toward the NCH title. To earn this title, a dog must meet all of the requirements below:  
**Nosework Championship Legs.** Dogs must earn a total of five (5) legs, from the MN and EN classes by successfully completing all hides in one trial. Three (3) of the passing legs must be earned from Master Nosework trials and at least two (2) passing legs must be earned from Elite Nosework trials.
- g.) **Nosework Grand Champion (NGC).** This title must be earned from the B sections of the Master and Elite Nosework classes. A dog must have earned the Nosework Champion title before it is eligible to earn legs toward the NGC title. To earn this title, a dog must meet all of the requirements below:  
**Nosework Grand Championship Legs.** Dogs must earn a total of ten (10) legs from the MN and EN classes by successfully completing all hides in one trial. Six (6) of the passing legs must be earned in MN trials and at least four (4) passing legs must be earned from in EN trials. The NGC class will have numeric designations to signify the number of times the title has been completed.

## **CHAPTER 3 PERFORMANCE, HANDLING & EQUIPMENT**

**Section 1. Checking In.** The exhibitor is expected to know the scheduled trial starting time, be present and ready to go when they are called. Upon arrival, the exhibitor should check in to determine the dog's number, and the order of competing. If the exhibitor believes they may have ring conflicts or they are handling more than one dog, they must notify the stewards of possible conflicts before the class starts so that accommodations may be arranged. The official may allow the exhibitor to show out of order. Officials are not required to wait for dogs.

**Section 2. Warm-Ups.** Exhibitors may elect to warm up their dogs prior to exhibiting. Warm-ups are to be kept simple and must not interfere with another exhibitor's performance in the ring. Training on the grounds, except in the designated warm up area of a Licensed Nosework trial, is not permitted. A host club may elect to set an area or ring aside for warm-ups.

The warm-up area must not disturb or interfere with the trial area. It is recommended that the warm-up ring be in a separate facility or area and consist of three to five boxes. There will be at least one identified hide in the warm-up designated area. One handler/dog team at a time is allowed to use this area. Dogs on deck will have priority. All rules governing Nosework trials shall apply in the warm-up area. If there is not designated warm-up area, exhibitors may use an area outside of trial grounds to warm-up their dogs as long as the handler and dog are not disruptive to competition and the dog is on a leash that is being held by the handler.

**Section 3. Dog Abuse.** Any person who observes a dog being abused while in the warm-up area, or anywhere else on the trial grounds, must report it to a member of the trial committee or an officer of the host club. A member of the trial committee or officer of the host club who becomes aware of a dog being abused or having been previously abused on the grounds, must consider it misconduct and treat the incident in accordance with the UKC Misconduct and Discipline Guidelines. An official who becomes aware that a dog is being or has been abused in the warm-up ring must not allow the handler to compete and must report the matter in accordance with the UKC Misconduct and Discipline Guidelines.

**Section 4. Training in the Ring.** Training is prohibited in the Nosework ring while competing. If an official determines that a handler is training their dog while competing, the official may score that hide with faults up to and including a non-qualifying (NQ) search.

**Section 5. Equipment.** A club hosting a UKC licensed Nosework trial must provide the following equipment:

- a.) **Ring Supplies.** Items such as pens, pencils, calculators, and clipboards must be available for use in the ring by the official(s) and stewards.
- b.) **Scent Kit.** Consisting of all necessary and approved odors. Only odors used at the trial need to be present at the trial. The odors are as follows:
  - Novice.** Birch Sweet Oil – *Betula Lenta*
  - Advanced.** Aniseed Oil – *Pimpinella Anisum*
  - Superior.** Clovebud Oil – *Eugenia Caryophyllata* or *Syzygium Aromaticum*
  - Masters.** Myrrh Oil – *Commiphora Myrrha*
  - Elite.** Vetiver Oil – *Vetiveria Zizanoides*.
- c.) **Collars and Harnesses.** The dog may wear flat collars, limited slip, martingale type collars, and harnesses. Studded, “pinch” or “prong” collars, of any type or special training collars (such as electronic-collars) are prohibited in the Nosework working area. Collars and/or harnesses must properly fit the dog and be approved by the official. Collar tags that are not attached or riveted directly to the collar, or any items hanging from the collar are prohibited in the Nosework working area. The official will evaluate all equipment and apparel prior to the dog’s individual performance. If the official denies a piece of equipment or apparel the exhibitor must remove this piece prior to competing. Electronic collars are not permitted on the grounds of a UKC licensed performance event.
- d.) **Container Search Boxes.** Containers must be uniform in size. Containers must be at least 12 inches by 9 inches with any container not being less than three (3) inches tall or over eight (8) inches tall. Odors may be taped securely to the inside of the container (preferably the side) or must be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released from the primary container into the boxes. Additional pre-loaded or blank containers must be available for replacement if any of the containers become damaged or contaminated. The bottoms of the boxes must be taped shut. One steward will be designated for the care of the odor box...wiping it off as needed with cloth or paper towels specifically dedicated for each odor, setting it back in line, etc. No one else should touch the box, and that volunteer should not touch the other blank or distractor boxes.
- e.) **Distractions.** The club is responsible for providing items such as food and/or toys for the Superior, Master and Elite Individual Elements classes and all SN, MN, and EN trials. A variety of items must be available for the official to choose from. The official will determine which items are appropriate for each element and trial.
- f.) **Leashes.** Leashes may be made of fabric or leather, martingale or flexi, and must be of sufficient length to safely control the dog.
- g.) **Stopwatches and Timers.** At least two stopwatches that record time to 1/10th of a second must be available for each Nosework ring. If a stopwatch is used that records time to 1/100th of a second, only the time to 1/10th of a second is recorded as the running time. Running times are used to break ties for placements.
- h.) **Vehicles.** The number of vehicles required will depend on the particular level. Vehicle types are described within each level. When other types of vehicles are allowed they can be other than a regular automobile and can include, but are not limited to, motorcycles, trailers, semi-trucks, boats, ski-doo's, etc. Vehicles are only required when a club is hosting a Vehicle Individual Element search, or Novice Nosework – Elite Nosework trials.

**Section 6. Elements.** There will be four different elements available for Nosework trials. They are as follows:

- a.) **Containers:** Containers for searches will be cardboard boxes. Handlers are not permitted to touch any containers. Dogs may walk on or touch containers but the official may call a fault if they feel the dog is compromising the environment or exhibiting an aggressive alert. Containers must be placed inside a ring or designated area that is marked off. Ring size will be at least 40 by 70 or 2,800 sq feet. The surface must be adequate to provide a firm and safe footing for dog and handler. Grass surfaces must be mowed so that the grass is short. Areas where containers are to be set may be marked on the floor with chalk lines or tape lines along two sides of the boxes.
- b.) **Interior Building.** Searches are typically done indoors in enclosed room-sized environments such as a

kitchen, bathroom, office, conference room, or warehouse. Searches may be conducted on or off leash as indicated by judge during the Handlers Briefing before the beginning of the trial. Single search areas may consist of adjoining rooms, or an area marked off in a larger interior space. This area may not always be open to spectators because they may not be able to accommodate them without compromising the environment. If the exhibitor feels that the leash will interfere with their dog's ability to effectively search all areas they may request to complete this portion of the test off leash. It is the sole discretion of the official to allow an exhibitor to compete without a leash, the official's decision is final. Blank areas can only be presented in Master and Elite levels. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them.

- c.) **Exterior Area.** These areas can consist of any area that is outside. They can include, but are not limited to, exterior walls of buildings, parking lots, grassy fields, courtyards, etc. Dogs will be required to search under all weather conditions on the trial day. Exterior search areas will be clearly identified by flags, cones, tape, gates, etc. Hides must be within designated areas but dogs and handlers may move outside the area as part of their search pattern. Search times will be determined by factors that include, but are not limited to, weather conditions, size, difficulty, and distractors. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them.
- d.) **Vehicles.** The number of vehicles required will depend on the particular level. Vehicle types are described within each level. When other types of vehicles are allowed they can be other than a regular automobile and can include, but are not limited to, motorcycles, trailers, semi-trucks, boats, ski-doo's, etc. The search will only be done on the **exterior** of any vehicle. The handler will never open a vehicle door for their dog or direct the dog into any vehicle to locate a hide. The search should be conducted on leash. If the exhibitor feels that the leash will interfere with their dog's ability to effectively search all vehicles they may request to complete this portion of the test off leash. It is the sole discretion of the official to allow an exhibitor to compete without a leash, the official's decision is final. Handlers will be assessed a fault if their dog excessively paws or damages any vehicle at the officials's discretion. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them.

**Section 7. Commands, Signals, Orders.** A command is a spoken instruction given by the handler to the dog and may be used by the handler to convey instructions to the dog at any time. A signal is a hand or hand and arm movement that may be used by the handler at any time to convey instructions to the dog. The dog's name may be used at any time and in any combination with commands and/or signals. The officials may use signals to convey instructions to the handler. An order is the instruction given by the official to the handler. Orders may be spoken or given by signal. It is the responsibility of the handler to ensure that the dogs "search" command(s) as well as the dog's "alert" behavior(s) are listed and clear on the score sheet for each trial.

**Section 8. Handling Procedures.** All dogs at a licensed Nosework trial shall be on a leash, except where the Certifying Official determines that all dogs might safely search off leash, and explains the option during the Handlers Briefing before the start of the trial. If the exhibitor feels that the leash will interfere with their dog's ability to effectively search all areas they may request to complete this portion of the test off leash. It is the sole discretion of the official to allow an exhibitor to compete without a leash and the official's decision is final. Every dog must enter and leave the Nosework official working area on a leash. Failure to leave the official working area with the dog on leash shall be penalized a fault. It is recommended that handlers wear rubber-soled, closed-toe shoes. Clothes should be neat and comfortable with safety in mind. Handlers are allowed to wear special training clothing or equipment such as vests, hats, bait bags, etc.

- a.) **Repeating an Exercise.** An official may allow an exhibitor to repeat an exercise or element in its entirety only when the dog's performance was unfairly hindered by extraordinary circumstances over which the handler had no control. Officials may only allow this when it will not give an unfair advantage to any dog. No dog will be allowed to repeat only a part of an exercise unless it is a two or more part exercise; in which case the official may choose to repeat only the part of the exercise in which the extraordinary circumstance occurred (i.e., the third hide in a master level in the exterior element).

**b.) Control of the Dog.** Exhibitors are expected to keep their dog under control at all times. The Event Committee may expel from the event grounds any person whose failure to control a dog interferes with officiating or with the ability of other exhibitors to present their dogs. A dog that shows extreme aggression toward people or equipment in the search area, working area, or during the scored performance will be disqualified and will not receive a passing search. The official must excuse a dog whose behavior in the search area is so unruly (not under the handler's control) that it indicates to the official it is unable to compete.

A dog that leaves the working area and does not return to the handler during the search must not receive a passing search but may be allowed to complete the element and remaining elements at the discretion of the officials. Dogs are allowed to bark and/or whine during any exercise and will not be penalized for such.

A Certifying or Hide Official must disqualify a dog that bites or attempts to bite any person (including the handler) or that attacks or attempts to attack. A dog that has been disqualified may not continue to compete in Nosework trials, or any other UKC licensed event, even if otherwise eligible when disqualified by the Certifying or Hide official. The official's decision is final in all disqualifications. The official must mark the reason on the score sheet which must then be recorded in the official results book for all disqualifications.

**c.) Bait and Baiting in the Ring.** Exhibitors are allowed to bring conditioned reinforcers (rewards such as food and/or toys and/or clickers) into the Nosework working area. Bait pouches, fanny packs or other items that a dog may associate with training are also allowed. The official will inspect all reinforcers and those items must be approved before entrance into the working area. Approved methods of rewarding dogs are as follows:

- 1. Food rewards:** Must be offered next to, or away from source to prevent contamination of hide. If food is dropped in any of the search areas a fault will be issued.
- 2. Toy rewards:** All toys must be approved by the official prior to the search and must be clean. Dirty toys will not be accepted for use as they may contaminate the source especially if they are being used as a "reward from source" method. If toys are not being thrown then they do not have to be as clean but if these toys are dropped and are dirty a fault may be assessed.

**d.) Ring and Event Grounds Cleanup.** Exhibitors are required to clean up after their dog if it fouls the search area or the event grounds. The steward may bring cleaning supplies to the exhibitor and may hold the dog while the owner cleans the area. Any exhibitor who fails to clean up after their dog may be directed by the Event Committee to leave the event grounds. A dog that times out or false alerts at Novice Level will be allowed to be rewarded at source before leaving the ring. A dog that fouls the search area must not receive a passing search, but may be allowed to continue the exercises at the discretion of the official.

**Section 9. Handlers Briefing.** The official will hold a short briefing session prior to the handlers entering the ring. This will allow time for the official to review the rules and/or explain any variables in the element search area. This may be combined with the time allotted for the familiarization of the course. The official will cover the number of hides for each element, the boundaries of the search areas, the maximum time allowed in each element, and will explain any areas where dogs will be allowed to search off-leash. The official should explain that dog and handler teams may cross search area boundaries without penalty.

**Section 10. Handler Course Familiarization Without Dog.** Immediately following the Handlers Briefing, all handlers of the class will be permitted to view each element of the search area. Handlers are not allowed to enter the actual search area at any time other than when they are competing. The stewards, certifying official and hide official will be present in the search area during this period to supervise. Officials will answer questions from handlers at this time, and during a post trial question and answer period if the Certifying Official holds a de-briefing after the trial. Start lines, boundaries and times will be indicated to the handlers during this time. Course areas are meant to be like real life situations without gross hazard issues. Handlers understand that trial areas may not be perfect or pristine and there may be hazards unknown to the club. The familiarization is an opportunity to address any concerns with the officials. It is the responsibility of the handler to determine if the area is safe for their dog. No refunds will be issued if the handler chooses to withdraw from

the trial after the course familiarization. Handlers may not observe other participants runs in the element(s) they are entered in on the same trial day.

**Section 11. Dog In White.** For all classes in Individual Element and Novice Nosework through Elite Nosework trials, including all Pre-trial classes, a qualified, non-competing dog and handler team shall perform all the exercises in the same manner that will occur during the competition. This is to allow the official to verify the integrity of the hides. It is acceptable for a team that has already competed to perform the dog in white for another level, provided they will not be competing in that level.

**Section 12. Certifying Official (CO).** A certifying official is required to be present at all Nosework trials except for Pre-Trial only and Container only trials. The Certifying Official is responsible for overseeing the running of the trial. A Certifying Official is the supervisor of any/all hide officials and is the final authority for day of trial decisions and running operations. It is the duty of the certifying official to ensure that all aspects of the entire trial run smoothly. Except for Pre-Trial and Container only trials, all hides will be placed by the CO.

**Section 13. Misbehavior of Handlers.** An official must excuse a handler who exhibits poor sportsmanship. The official's decision in these matters is final. The dog from the excused handler will not be allowed to continue to participate in the trial with a substitute handler. Persons around and/or outside the ring and working area are also prohibited from any intentional actions designed to affect the performance of a dog competing in the ring. This prohibition shall apply equally to persons attempting to improve or to impair a performance. The Event Committee may expel from the trial grounds any person they reasonably believe is attempting or exhibiting double handling. Officials may excuse exhibitors whose dogs they reasonably believe are benefiting from "double handling". No person may interfere with the official in any way while he/she is officiating a class.

By entering in a licensed Nosework event, the exhibitor is inviting the opinion of the official and must accept the official's decision as final. Complaints about the official may only be lodged with the host club if the exhibitor believes the official has violated a specific rule. Complaints about an official's knowledge or application of the Nosework rules may be filed with the United Kennel Club, but must address specific deficiencies. Electronic audio or video recordings will not be considered by the United Kennel Club when reviewing an official's competency to officiate Nosework trials.

## **CHAPTER 4 NOSEWORK HANDLER DISCRIMINATION CLASSES: REQUIREMENTS AND EXERCISES**

**Section 1. General Rules.** The primary purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the dog's ability to find the handler's scented article inside a closed box. Handler Discrimination titles are achieved after receiving three legs in each level. Titles available are: Novice Handler Discrimination (NHD), Advanced Handler Discrimination (AHD), and Excellent Handler Discrimination (EHD). Dogs must remain on leash at all times for the Handler Discrimination (HD) class. One (1) glove will be provided for the handler discrimination by the exhibitor and must be made of cotton. A passing search is earned toward the HD title for successful completion of the exercise. Three passing legs are required for each HD title. The HD class consists of the handlers' scented glove inside a container. It is the responsibility of the owner to write their "search" command and the dogs "alert" behavior on the entry form.

**Section 2. Target Odor.** The target odor for Handler Discrimination is that of the handler. One clean glove must be presented to the gate steward or official at a designated time. The glove can be previously scented by the owner. The glove will be placed in one of the containers and put in any place in the line of the search. One glove must be provided that must be open (not shut or sealed) and approved by the official.

**Section 3. Hides.** The search will be done with containers that will consist of a specific number of cardboard boxes set in a row, in the ring, and on the floor or ground. One box will be needed for each exhibitor in addition to the required amounts for the search and additional boxes for replacement. For Novice and Advanced level classes, the same position in line will be used for all target hides, to ensure equal search distance to target odor and fairness for placements.

**Section 4. Alerts.** The alert behavior must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the element. Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert.



**Section 5. Novice Handler Discrimination:** (NHD). No intentional distractions are allowed at this level. There will be only one glove, the handler's scented glove in one box with 11 empty boxes making up a total of 12. The search will be done with boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area, and on the floor or ground. Boxes must be uniform in size and be at least 24 inches apart from one another. The handler will arrive at the ring with one scented glove. Handlers will enter the ring with their scented glove and turn away from the line of boxes at a designated place. The official will collect the glove by having the handler drop it in a box. The official will close the box and with the handler still facing away, the official will put the box any place in the line. The ring steward will collect the box that is being replaced by the box that contains the handler's glove and put it at the table until the search is finished. The official will then order the handler to "Search" and the handler may reach down and allow the dog to sniff their hand prior to turning and searching. The handler and dog must then turn and begin the search. A formal and final response is not required at this level. It is not required that the dog show the specific alert behavior stated on the score sheet for this level, but the handler must call the alert when they recognized the dog has found the glove. Officials may ask "Where?" and handlers should be able to identify the location of the target odor by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything. If correctly identified, a pass will be awarded. When the search is finished, the steward will collect the box that contained the handler's glove and replace it with an empty unscented box so that any approaching handler will see 12 boxes in the ring.

**Section 6. Advanced Handler Discrimination:** (AHD). No intentional distractions are allowed at this level. There will be one glove that has been scented by the handler and 11 gloves that have been scented by the official to make up a total of 12 gloves in 12 boxes. The handler will arrive at the ring with one scented glove. Handlers will enter the ring with their scented glove and turn away from the line of boxes at a designated place. The ring steward will collect the empty box that is in the lineup and hand it to the official. The official will collect the glove from the handler by having the handler drop it in the box. The official will close the box and with the handler still facing away, the official will put the box in the line. The official will then order the handler to "Search" and the handler may reach down and allow the dog to sniff their hand prior to turning and searching. The handler and dog must then turn and begin the search. The alert behavior must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the exercise. It is acceptable to list up to three possible behaviors, as long as they can be clearly identified and recognized. Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting the predefined indication or final response. Alerts are not required to be a formal obedience type response but the behavior must communicate a decision that has been made on the part of the dog. Officials may ask "Where?" and handlers should be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything. If correctly identified, a pass will be awarded. If a handler calls an Alert that is incorrect searching will end. When the search is finished, the steward will collect the box that contained the handler's glove and replace it with an empty unscented box so that any approaching handler will see 12 boxes in the ring.

**Section 7. Excellent level:** (EHD) There will be 12 gloves, one in each box scented by each individual handler. If there are not 12 handlers, the stewards and/or officials will scent the remaining gloves and put them in boxes. Prior to the beginning of the class, all handlers in the group that is competing will bring their pre-scented gloves to the ring inside a sealed plastic bag with their armband number legibly written on the outside of the bag. The stewards will have 12 boxes open and ready for handlers to place their bag inside an open box. The handlers will then leave the area. The steward will randomly mark the boxes 1 through 12 and carefully remove the scented glove with tongs and place both the plastic bag and the glove inside the box. The steward or anyone else may not touch either the scented glove or the plastic bag. The steward will mark which box belongs to which handler on the handler's score sheet for the official and then place the closed boxes in in a row, in the ring, and on the floor or ground. Handlers will compete in groups of 12. Handlers will be called to the ring in order. Handlers will enter the ring turn away from the line of boxes at a designated place. The official will then order the handler to "Search" and the handler may reach down and allow the dog to sniff their hand prior to turning and searching. The handler and dog must then turn and begin the search. The alert behavior must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the exercise. The official may ask for clarification from the handler on the response prior to the beginning of the exercise. Alerts at this level must be a single behavior (or chain of behaviors) that is clearly recognized and concise. If a chain of behaviors is specified, they must be specified with "and" and not "or". Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting the predefined indication or final response. Alerts are not required to be a formal

obedience type response but the behavior must communicate a decision that has been made on the part of the dog. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting the specific behavior or final response. Officials may ask "Where?" and handlers should be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything. If correctly identified, a pass will be awarded. If a handler calls an Alert that is incorrect, searching will end.

**Section 8. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a pass or fail basis. A pass is considered correctly calling alerts when the dog finds the hide and the handler makes correct calls where applicable in each search area and no more than one (1) fault. Maximum times for each search must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Times for the searches should not exceed three (3) minutes for Novice, four (4) minutes for Advanced and five (5) minutes for Excellent. Each search requires that the handler state "alert." The dog must locate the correct hide and the handler must call the alert within the allotted time to receive a passing search. Placements are ranked by time.

**Section 9. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than one (1) fault and still receive a passing leg. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## **CHAPTER 5 PRE-TRIAL CLASSES: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS**

**Section 1. General Rules.** Dogs must remain on leash at all times for the Pre-Trial (PT) classes. Pre-Trial titles are achieved after one successful completion for each level. The class will be scored as a pass/fail without placements. There will be only one hide consisting of the designated odor in each PT level class. No intentional distractions are allowed at this level.

The search will be done with containers that will consist of 12 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area, and on the floor or ground.

**Section 2. Target Odors.** Target odors are as follows:

- Pre-Trial Novice (PTN) – Birch
- Pre-Trial Advanced (PTA) – Anise
- Pre-Trial Superior (PTS) – Clove
- Pre-Trial Master (PTM) – Myrrh
- Pre-Trial Elite (PTE) – Vetiver

**Section 3. Pre-Trial Exercise.** The primary purpose of the Pre-Trial is to determine that the dog is familiar with the designated odor and is ready to progress to regular Nosework trials respectively. Defined trained responses are not necessary at this level, only handler and official recognizing that the dog has found the odor. Successful completion of the PT requires no more than one (1) fault. Officials will not call any faults during the performance.

**Section 4. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a passing or non-qualifying search with no more than one (1) fault. Maximum times must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Time for the Pre-Trial classes should not exceed five (5) minutes. Each search requires that the handler state "alert". The dog must locate the correct hide and the handler must call the alert within the allotted time to receive a passing leg.

**Section 5. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than one (1) fault and still receive a passing leg. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## **CHAPTER 6 NOVICE INDIVIDUAL ELEMENT CLASSES: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS**

**Section 1. General Rules.** Novice Individual Element titles are achieved in each element individually after receiving two legs for each element. Titles available in this level are Containers (NC), Exterior (NE), Interior (NI), and Vehicle (NV). Elements do not have to be titled in any particular order. If all four elements are

attained at this level, the dog will be granted a NN title. There will be only one hide in each Novice Individual element class. No intentional distractions are allowed at this level.

**Section 2. Target Odor & Hides.** Only one odor, Birch will be used in the Novice Individual Element classes. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. Additional odors must be available for replacement in case of contamination. No hides may be higher than two (2) feet.

**Section 3. Alerts.** The alert behavior must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the element. Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. A formal and final response is not required at this level. It is not required that the dog show the specific behavior stated for this level, but the handler must call the alert when they recognize the dog has found the odor. Officials may ask "Where?" and handlers should be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything.

#### **Section 4. Novice Individual Elements**

**a.) Novice Containers – (NC)** A Novice Container title will be granted after two passing legs in the Container element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done with containers that will consist of 12 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area, and on the floor or ground.

**b.) Novice Exterior – (NE).** A Novice Exterior title will be granted after two passing legs in the Exterior element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done in an exterior area, outdoors and will be one area a minimum of 200 square feet and a maximum of 400 square feet. The area to be searched will be identified during the Handlers Briefing. Walking around the outside of the area will be allowed. The official or steward will be available for questions. This area may be marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc.

**c.) Novice Interior – (NI).** A Novice Interior title will be granted after two passing legs in the Interior element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done in an interior area, indoors and will be one area a minimum of 100 square feet and a maximum of 150 square feet. This area may be within a larger area and marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc.

**d.) Novice Vehicle – (NV).** A Novice Vehicle title will be granted after two passing legs in the Vehicle element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done with three vehicles (automobiles) set in a line. The vehicles must be no less than four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet apart with one hidden odor on one of the vehicles. Vehicles will all be facing the same direction and the front bumper must be utilized for the hide.

**Section 5. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a pass or fail basis with no more than one (1) fault. A passing search is given when the handler correctly calls the alerts when the dog finds the hides where applicable in each search area within the allotted time. Maximum times for each element must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Time for the Novice Individual Element classes should not exceed five (5) minutes. Each search requires that the handler state "alert". The dog must locate the correct hide and the handler must call the alert within the allotted time to receive a passing search.

**Section 6. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than one (1) fault and still receive a pass. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Placements are ranked by faults and then time. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults regardless of their running time. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## **CHAPTER 7 ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL ELEMENT CLASSES: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS**

**Section 1. General Rules.** Advanced Individual Element titles are achieved in each element individually after receiving two legs for each element. Titles available in this level are Containers (AC), Exterior (AE), Interior (AI), and Vehicle (AV). Elements do not have to be titled in any particular order. If all four elements are attained

at this level, the dog will be granted an AN title. There will be only one hide in each Advanced Individual element class. No intentional distractions are allowed at this level.

**Section 2. Target Odor & Hides.** Only one odor, Anise will be used in the Advanced Individual Element classes. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. Additional odors must be available for replacement in case of contamination. No hides may be higher than two (2) feet.

**Section 3. Alerts.** The alert behavior must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the element. It is acceptable to list up to three possible behaviors, as long as they can be clearly identified and recognized. Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting the predefined indication or final response. Alerts are not required to be a formal obedience type response but the behavior must communicate a decision that has been made on the part of the dog. Officials may ask "Where?" and handlers should be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything. If a handler calls an alert that is incorrect searching will end.

#### **Section 4. Advanced Individual Elements**

**a.) Advanced Containers - (AC)** An Advanced Container title will be granted after two passing legs in the Container element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done with containers that will consist of 12 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area, and on the floor or ground.

**b.) Advanced Exterior – (AE).** An Advanced Exterior title will be granted after two passing legs in the Exterior element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done in an exterior area, outdoors and will be one area a minimum of 500 square feet and a maximum of 750 square feet. The area to be searched will be identified during the Handlers Briefing. Walking around the outside of the area will be allowed. The official or steward will be available for questions. This area may be marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc.

**c.) Advanced Interior – (AI).** An Advanced Interior title will be granted after two passing legs in the Interior element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done in an interior area, indoors and will be one area a minimum of 150 square feet and a maximum of 300 square feet. This area may be within a larger area and marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc.

**d.) Advanced Vehicle – (AV).** An Advanced Vehicle title will be granted after two passing legs in the Vehicle element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done with three vehicles (automobiles) set in a line. The vehicles must be no less than four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet apart with one hidden odor on one vehicle. Vehicles will all be facing the same direction; any area on the vehicles may be utilized for the hide.

**Section 5. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a pass or fail basis with no more than one (1) fault. A passing search is given when the handler correctly calls the alerts when the dog finds the hides where applicable in each search area within the allotted time. Maximum times for each element must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Time for the Advanced Individual Element classes should not exceed five (5) minutes. Each search requires that the handler state "alert". The dog must locate the correct hide and the handler must call the alert within the allotted amount of time to receive a passing score.

**Section 6. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than one (1) fault and still receive a passing leg. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Placements are ranked by faults and then time. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults regardless of their running time. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## **CHAPTER 8 SUPERIOR INDIVIDUAL ELEMENT CLASSES: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS**

**Section 1. General Rules.** Superior Individual Element titles are achieved in each element individually after receiving two legs for each element. Titles available in this level are Containers (SC), Exterior (SE), Interior

(SI), and Vehicle (SV). Elements do not have to be titled in any particular order. If all four elements are attained at this level, the dog will be granted a SN title. There will be two hides in each Superior individual element class. One distraction is required at this level.

**Section 2. Target Odor & Hides.** Two odors will be used for the Superior Individual element class. Clove is a required odor for this level. The other two eligible odors are Birch and Anise. Each search will contain a Clove hide and a hide that consists of either Birch or Anise. Odors must be used separately to make up the two hides, they cannot be combined together in the same hide. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. Additional odors must be available for replacement in case of contamination. No hides may be higher than three (3) feet.

**Section 3. Alerts.** The Alert must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the element. The official may ask for clarification from the handler on the response prior to the beginning of the element. Alerts at this level must be a single behavior (or chain of behaviors) that is clearly recognized and concise. If a chain of behaviors is specified, they must be specified with “and” and not “or”. Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting the predefined indication or final response. Alerts are not required to be a formal obedience type response but the behavior must communicate a decision that has been made on the part of the dog. officials may ask “Where?” and handlers should be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything. If a handler calls an Alert that is incorrect, searching will end.

**Section 4. Distractions.** One distraction is required at this level. Any type of food or toy is considered a distraction. Distractions are described within their specific elements.

### **Section 5. Superior Individual Elements**

**a.) Superior Containers – (SC)** A Superior Container title will be granted after two passing legs in the Container element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done with containers that will consist of 16 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area, and on the floor or ground.

**b.) Superior Exterior – (SE).** A Superior Exterior title will be granted after two passing legs in the Exterior element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done in an exterior area, outdoors and will be one area a minimum of 1000 square feet and a maximum of 1500 square feet. The distraction must not be immediately next to the hide. The area to be searched will be identified during the Handlers Briefing. Walking around the outside of the area will be allowed. The official or steward will be available for questions. This area may be marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc.

**c.) Superior Interior – (SI).** A Superior Interior title will be granted after two passing legs in the Interior element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

Search area indoors will consist of two areas. One distraction is required at this level. Distraction can be in either area but must be in an area with only one hide. There can either be two hides in one room and the distraction in the other area, or one hide in each room with the distraction in the area with the hide but not immediately next to it. One area must be a minimum 100 sq feet with a maximum of 200 sq feet. The second area will be a minimum of 300 sq feet and a maximum of 400 sq feet. These areas may be within a larger area and marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc. Areas may consist of bathrooms, separate rooms, or rooms marked off as designated above.

**d.) Superior Vehicle – (SV).** A Superior Vehicle title will be granted after two passing legs in the Vehicle element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done with five vehicles. Four of the vehicles must be automobiles. The fifth vehicle may be something other than an automobile. Vehicles must be set in a line with no specific orientation. All vehicles must be set no less than four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet apart. Each hide must be placed on a separate vehicle independent of the other. Any area may be utilized on the vehicles but no hides may be higher than three (3) feet. The distraction cannot be on the same vehicle as the hide but can be on the vehicle next to the hide.

**Section 6. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a pass or fail basis with no more than one (1) fault. A passing search is given when the handler correctly calls the alerts when the dog finds the hides where applicable in each search area within the allotted time. Maximum times for each element must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Time for the Superior Individual Element classes should not exceed ten (10) minutes. Each search requires that the handler use their specific search command and state "Alert". All searches at this level will also require the handler call "finish" after the dog has located both hides in the search area. The actual search time will start with the owners search command, or any part of a team member crossing the start line, and will stop when the owner calls the first alert. The process will be repeated for all additional hides. The combined times from each hide will be recorded as the dogs actual search time. No dog and handler team may exceed the maximum element time as posted at the trial.

**Section 7. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than one (1) fault and still receive a passing leg. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Placements are ranked by faults and then time. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults regardless of their running time. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## **CHAPTER 9 MASTER INDIVIDUAL ELEMENT CLASSES: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS**

**Section 1. General Rules.** Master Individual Element titles are achieved in each element individually after receiving two legs for each element. Titles available in this level are Containers (MC), Exterior (ME), Interior (MI), and Vehicle (MV). Elements do not have to be titled in any particular order. If all four elements are attained at this level, the dog will be granted a MN title. There must be a minimum of two hides with no more than three hides in each Master Individual element class.

**Section 2. Target Odor & Hides.** Up to four odors may be used in the Master Individual Element class. Myrrh is a required odor for this level. The other three eligible odors are: Birch, Anise, and Clove. Odors must be used separately to make up the two or three hides. Handlers will not know the number of hides before searching. No hide can consist of more than one odor. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. Additional odors must be available for replacement in case of contamination. No hides may be higher than four (4) feet.

**Section 3. Alerts.** The Alert must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the element. The official may ask for clarification from the handler on the response prior to the beginning of the element. Alerts at this level must be a single behavior (or chain of behaviors) that is clearly recognized and concise. If a chain of behaviors is specified, they must be specified with "and" and not "or". Dogs must locate all hides and handlers will be responsible for calling all alerts. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting a specific behavior or final response. Alerts are not required to be a formal obedience type response but the behavior must communicate a decision that has been made on the part of the dog. If a handler calls an Alert that is incorrect, searching will end. If handlers encounter a blank area in the Interior search they must call "Clear" or "Finish" before the allotted time expires. When "alert" is called officials may ask "Where?" and handlers must be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything. If correctly identified, a passing search will be awarded.

**Section 4. Distractions & Hides.** Two distractions are required at this level in each element. Any type of food or toy is considered a distraction. Distractions are described within the specific elements for each class.

### **Section 5. Master Individual Elements**

**a.) Master Containers – (MC)** A Master Container title will be granted after two passing legs in the Container element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done with containers that will consist of 20 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area, and on the floor or ground. Boxes containing distractions may not be placed adjacent to odor containing boxes.

**b.) Master Exterior – (ME)** A Master Nosework Exterior title will be granted after two passing legs in the Exterior element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done in an exterior area, outdoors and will be one area a minimum of 2000 square

feet and a maximum of 3000 square feet. The area to be searched will be identified during the Handlers Briefing. During the briefing, walking around outside the designated area will be allowed. The official or steward will be available for questions. This area may be marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc. Distractions cannot be immediately next to the target odor.

**c.) Master Interior – (MI)** A Master Interior title will be granted after two passing legs in the Interior element are achieved. Each search requires that the handler state “alert,” “finish” or “clear” (clear in the case of a blank area). Each leg consists of the following:

Search area indoors will consist of two areas. One area can be as small as 100 sq feet or as large as 200 sq feet. The second area will be a minimum of 300 sq feet and a maximum of 400 sq feet. These areas may be within a larger area and marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc. Areas may consist of bathrooms, separate rooms, or rooms marked off as designated above. Odors must be used separately to make up the hides; odors cannot be combined together at the same place. No hides higher than four (4) feet. Distractions cannot be immediately next to the target odors. Hides will be as follows:

1. All hides in one area with one distraction in that area, and a distraction in a blank area (an area without a hide), or
2. All hides in one area with two distractions in a blank area (an area without a hide), or
3. One or two hides and one distraction in one area, and the additional hide(s) and one distraction in the other area.

**d.) Master Vehicle – (MV)** A Master Vehicle title will be granted after two passing legs in the Vehicle element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done with seven vehicles. Two vehicles may be other than an automobile. Vehicles must be set in a scattered pattern and may face any direction with no specific orientation. All vehicles must be set no less than four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet apart. Any area may be utilized on the vehicles but no hides may be higher than four (4) feet. The distraction cannot be on the same vehicle as the hide but can be on the vehicle next to the vehicle with the hide.

**Section 6. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a pass or fail basis and no more than one (1) fault. A passing search is given when the handler correctly calls the alerts when the dog finds the hides where applicable in each search area within the allotted time. Maximum times for each element must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Time for the Master Individual Element classes should not exceed ten (10) minutes. Each search requires that the handler use their specific search command and state “alert.” All searches at this level will also require the handler call “finish” after the dog has located all of the hides in the search area or “clear” after the dog has determined that there are no hides in that area. The actual search time will start with the owners search command, or any part of a team member crossing the start line, and will stop when the owner calls the first alert. The process will be repeated for all additional hides. The combined times from each hide will be recorded as the dogs actual search time. No dog and handler team may exceed the maximum element time as posted at the trial.

**Section 7. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than one (1) fault and still receive a passing leg. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Placements are ranked by faults, and then time. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults regardless of their running time. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## **CHAPTER 10 ELITE INDIVIDUAL ELEMENT CLASSES: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS**

**Section 1. General Rules.** Elite Individual Element titles are achieved in each element individually after receiving two legs for each element. Titles available in this level are Containers (EC), Exterior (EE), Interior (EI), and Vehicle (EV). Elements do not have to be titled in any particular order. If all four elements are attained at this level, the dog will be granted an EN title. There will be three or four hides in each Elite Individual element class.

**Section 2. Target Odor & Hides.** All five odors may be used in the Elite Individual Element classes. Vetiver is a required odor for this level. All of the other odors are: Birch, Anise, Clove, and Myrrh. Odors must be used separately to make up the three or four hides. Handlers will not know the number of hides before searching. No hide can consist of more than one odor. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. Additional odors must be available for replacement in case of contamination. No hides may be higher than four (4) feet.

**Section 3. Alerts.** The Alert must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the element. The official may ask for clarification from the handler on the response prior to the beginning of the element. Alerts at this level must be a single behavior (or chain of behaviors) that is clearly recognized and concise. If a chain of behaviors is specified, they must be specified with “and” and not “or”. Dogs must locate all hides and handlers will be responsible for calling all alerts. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting a specific behavior or final response. Alerts are not required to be a formal obedience type response but the behavior must communicate a decision that has been made on the part of the dog. If a handler calls an Alert that is incorrect, searching will end. If handlers encounter a blank area during the interior element they must call “Clear” or “Finish” before the allotted time to receive a passing search for that element. Officials may ask “Where?” and handlers must be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything. If correctly identified, a passing search will be awarded. Warnings on remaining time may be issued by the timekeeper.

**Section 4. Distractions & Hides.** Three distractions are required at this level in each element. Any type of food or toy is considered a distraction. Distractions are described within the specific elements for each class.

### **Section 5. Elite Individual Elements**

**a.) Elite Containers – (EC)** An Elite Container title will be granted after two passing legs in the Container element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done with containers that will consist of 24 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area, and on the floor or ground. Hidden odors will consist of three or four hides. Only one odor can be in any container. Distractions must be placed in one of the containers not being used with the target odor. The distraction box may be placed immediately next to the target odor box.

**b.) Elite Exterior – (EE).** An Elite Exterior title will be granted after two passing legs in the Exterior element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:

The search will be done in one exterior area, outdoors and will be a minimum of 3000 square feet and a maximum of 4000 square feet. Three distractions are required in this element. Distractions may be placed immediately next to the target odor. The area to be searched will be identified during the Handlers Briefing. During the briefing, walking around outside the designated area will be allowed. The official or steward will be available for questions. This area may be marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc.

**c.) Elite Interior – (EI).** An Elite Interior title will be granted after two passing legs in the Interior element are achieved. Each search requires that the handler state “alert,” “finish” or “clear” (clear in the case of a blank area). Each leg consists of the following:

Search area indoors will consist of three areas. One area can be as small as 100 sq feet or as large as 200 sq feet. The second area will be a minimum of 300 sq feet and a maximum of 400 sq feet. The third area will be a minimum of 400 sq feet and a maximum of 600 sq feet. These areas may be within a larger area and marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc. Areas may consist of bathrooms, separate rooms, or rooms marked off as designated above. Odors must be used separately to make up the three or four hides; odors cannot be combined together at the same place. Hides will be as follows:

1. The smaller space can contain not more than two items
2. The larger two spaces may contain not more than three items (hides and/or distractions) in each space.

**d.) Elite Vehicle – (EV).** An Elite Vehicle title will be granted after two passing legs in the Vehicle element are achieved. Each leg consists of the following:



The search will be done with seven vehicles. Two vehicles may be other than an automobile. Vehicles must be set in a scattered pattern and may face any direction with no specific orientation. All vehicles must be set no less than four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet apart. Any area may be utilized on the vehicles but no hides may be higher than four (4) feet. Three distractions are required at this level. The distraction can be placed on the same vehicle as the hide.

**Section 6. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a pass or fail basis and no more than one (1) fault. A passing search is given when the handler correctly calls the alerts when the dog finds the hides where applicable in each search area within the allotted time. Maximum times for each element must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Time for the Elite Individual Element classes should not exceed ten (10) minutes. Each search requires that the handler use their specific search command and state "alert." All searches at this level will also require the handler call "finish." after the dog has located all of the hides in the search area or "clear" in the case of a blank area after the dog has determined that there are no hides in that area. The actual search time will start with the owners search command, or any part of a team member crossing the start line, and will stop when the owner calls the first alert. The process will be repeated for all additional hides. The combined times from each hide will be recorded as the dogs actual search time. No dog and handler team may exceed the maximum element time as posted at the trial.

**Section 7. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than one (1) fault and still receive a passing leg. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Placements are ranked by faults, and then time. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults regardless of their running time. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## **CHAPTER 11 NOVICE NOSEWORK – NN: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS**

**Section 1. General Rules.** Novice Nosework (NN) titles are achieved after receiving two (2) passing legs earned from Novice Nosework classes, or by earning two legs in each element of the Novice individual element class or any combination of the two. The purpose of the Novice Nosework level is to demonstrate the ability of the dog to detect a target odor in four different elements, Containers, Interior, Exterior, and Vehicles. Dogs must successfully find all hides in all four elements in the same trial in order to be eligible for placements or high in trial. Dogs must successfully locate all hides within each element to receive a passing leg toward that particular element. All elements must be entered and searched within the trial, with the exception of a team that has been otherwise determined ineligible to continue. There is only one hide in Novice Nosework for each of the elements.

**Section 2. Target Odors & Hides.** Only one odor, Birch will be used in the Novice Nosework, trial. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. Additional odors must be available for replacement in case of contamination. No hides may be higher than two (2) feet. No intentional distractions are allowed at this level.

**Section 3. Alerts.** Alerts must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the first element. Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. A formal and final response is not required at this level. It is not required that the dog show the specific behavior stated for this level, but the handler must still call the alert when they recognized the dog has found the odor. Officials may ask "Where?" and handlers should be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything.

### **Section 4. Element Requirements for NN trials.**

- a.) **Container Search:** Container search will consist of 12 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area and on the floor or ground with one hidden odor.
- b.) **Exterior Area Search:** Search area must be no less than 200 sq feet with a maximum of 400 square feet. Area to be searched will be identified during the briefing for handlers. Walking around the outside of the designated area will be allowed. The official or steward will be available for questions.

- c.) **Interior Building Search:** Search area indoors will be one area a minimum of 100 sq feet and a maximum of 150 sq feet. This area may be within a larger area and marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc.
- d.) **Vehicle Search:** Vehicle search will consist of three vehicles (automobile) set in line. The vehicles must be no less than four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet apart with one hidden odor on one of the vehicles. Vehicles will all be facing the same direction and utilize front bumpers for hides.

**Section 5. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a passing search and no more than four (4) faults overall. A passing search is awarded when the handler correctly calls the alerts when the dog finds the hides within the allotted amount of time. Dogs must successfully complete all four search areas to be considered for placements for these trials. Placements are determined by the number of faults then by the dogs actual search time combined from each element. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults regardless of their running time. Dogs must successfully complete the search area for each element to receive a passing leg for that element.

Maximum times for each element must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Maximum times for the NN elements should not exceed five (5) minutes. Each search requires that the handler state "alert." The "alert" call must be correct in order for the team to stop the timer and receive a passing leg.

**Section 6. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than four (4) total faults and still receive a placement. If a team receives more than one (1) fault on any specific element they will not receive a pass for that element. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## **CHAPTER 12 ADVANCED NOSEWORK – AN: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS**

**Section 1. General Rules.** Advanced Nosework (AN) titles are achieved after receiving two (2) passing legs earned from Advanced Nosework trials, or by earning two legs in each element of the Advanced Individual element classes, or any combination of the two. The purpose of the Advanced Nosework level is to demonstrate the ability of the dog to detect one of two target odors in four different elements, Containers, Interior, Exterior, and Vehicles. Dogs must successfully find all hides in all four elements in the same trial in order to be eligible for placements or high in trial. Dogs must successfully locate all hides within each element to receive a passing leg toward that particular element. All elements must be entered and searched within the trial, with the exception of a team that has been otherwise determined ineligible to continue. There is only one hide in Advanced Nosework for each of the elements.

**Section 2. Target Odors & Hides.** Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. Additional odors must be available for replacement in case of contamination. No hides may be higher than two (2) feet. No intentional distractions are allowed at this level.

**Section 3. Alerts.** The Alert must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the element. It is acceptable to list up to three possible behaviors, as long as they can be clearly identified and recognized. Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting the predefined indication or final response. Alerts are not required to be a formal obedience type response but the behavior must communicate a decision that has been made on the part of the dog. Officials may ask "Where?" and handlers should be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything.

### **Section 4. Element Requirements for AN.**

- a.) **Container Search:** Container search will consist of 12 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area with one hidden odor on the floor or ground consisting of either Birch or Anise.

- b.) Exterior Area Search:** Search area must be a minimum of 500 sq feet and a maximum of 750 sq feet. Area to be searched will be identified during the briefing for handlers. Walking around the outside of the designated area will be allowed. The official or steward will be available for questions.
- c.) Interior Building Search:** Search area indoors will be one area a minimum of 150 sq feet and a maximum of 300 sq feet. This area may be within a larger area and marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc.
- d.) Vehicle Search:** Vehicle search will consist of three (3) vehicles (automobile) set in line. The vehicles must be no less than four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet apart with one hidden odor on one of the vehicles. Vehicles will all be facing the same direction. Any area may be utilized on the vehicle.

**Section 5. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a passing search and no more than four (4) faults overall. A passing search is awarded when the handler correctly calls the alerts when the dog finds the hides within the allotted amount of time. Dogs must successfully complete all four search areas to be considered for placements for these trials. Placements are determined by the number of faults then by the dogs actual search time combined from each element. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults regardless of their running time. Dogs must successfully complete the search area for each element to receive a passing leg for that element.

Maximum times for each element must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Maximum times for the AN elements should not exceed five (5) minutes. Each search requires that the handler state "alert." The "alert" call must be correct in order for the team to stop the timer and receive a passing leg.

**Section 6. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than four (4) total faults and still receive a passing leg. If a team receives more than one (1) fault on any specific element they will not receive a pass for that element. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## **CHAPTER 13 SUPERIOR NOSEWORK – SN: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS**

**Section 1. General Rules.** Superior Nosework (SN) titles are achieved after receiving two (2) passing legs earned from Superior Nosework trials, or by earning two legs in each element of the Superior Individual element classes, or any combination of the two. The purpose of the Superior Nosework level is to demonstrate the ability of the dog to detect two of three target odors in four different elements, Containers, Interior, Exterior, and Vehicles. Dogs must successfully find all hides in all four elements in the same trial in order to be eligible for placements or high in trial. Dogs must successfully locate all hides within each element to receive a passing leg toward that particular element. All elements must be entered and searched within the trial, with the exception of a team that has been otherwise determined ineligible to continue. There are two hides in Superior Nosework for each of the elements.

**Section 2. Target Odors & Hides.** Two of three odors are required for use in each element. Clove is a required odor for this level. The other two odors can be either Birch, or Anise. Each element will contain two separate hides one that will consist of the Clove odor and a second that will consist of Birch or Anise. Odors must be used separately to make up the two hides, they cannot be combined together in the same hide. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. Additional odors must be available for replacement in case of contamination. No hides may be higher than three (3) feet.

**Section 3. Alerts.** The Alert must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the element. The Official may ask for clarification from the handler on the response prior to the beginning of the element. Alerts at this level must be a single behavior (or chain of behaviors) that is clearly recognized and concise. If a chain of behaviors is specified, they must be specified with "and" and not "or". Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting the predefined indication or final response. Alerts are not required to be a formal obedience type response but the behavior must communicate a decision that has been made on the part of the dog. Officials may ask "Where?" and handlers should be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything. If a handler calls an Alert that is incorrect, searching within that element will end.

**Section 4. Distractions** One distraction is required at this level. Any type of food or toy is considered a distraction. Distractions are described as within the specific elements for each class.

**Section 5. Element Requirements for SN.**

- a.) **Container Search:** Any type of food or toy may be placed in one of the containers that is not being used for the target odor as the distraction. The distraction box must not be immediately next to the target odor box. Container search will consist of 16 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area, and on the floor or ground, utilizing two odors as described in section 2 above.
- b.) **Exterior Area Search:** Search area outside must be a minimum of 1000 sq feet and no larger than 1500 sq feet. Area to be searched will be identified during the briefing for handlers. Walking around the outside of the area will be allowed. The official or steward will be available for questions. There will be two hides consisting of odors as described in section 2 above. No hide may be higher than three (3) feet. The distraction must not be immediately next to the hide.
- c.) **Interior Building Search:** Search area indoors will consist of two areas. The one distraction that is required at this level can be in either area but must be in an area with only one hide. There can either be two hides in one room and the distraction in the other area, or one hide in each room with the distraction in the area with the hide but not immediately next to it. One area can be a minimum of 100 sq feet with a maximum of 200 sq feet. The second area will be a minimum of 300 sq feet and a maximum of 400 sq feet. These areas may be within a larger area and marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc. Areas may consist of bathrooms, separate rooms, or rooms marked off as designated above.
- d.) **Vehicle Search:** Vehicle search will consist of five (5) vehicles. Four of the vehicles must be automobiles. The fifth vehicle may be something other than an automobile. Vehicles must be set in a line with no specific orientation. All vehicles must be set no less than four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet apart. Each hide must be placed on a separate vehicle independent of the other. There will be two hides consisting of odors as described in section 2 above. Any area may be utilized on the vehicles but no hides may be higher than three (3) feet. The distraction cannot be on the same vehicle as the hide but can be on the vehicle next to the hide.

**Section 6. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a passing search and no more than four (4) total faults overall. A passing search is awarded when the handler correctly calls the alerts when the dog finds the hides within the allotted amount of time. Dogs must successfully complete all four search areas to be considered for placements for these trials. Placements are determined by the number of faults then by the dogs actual search time combined from each element. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults regardless of their search time.

Dogs must successfully complete all hides within each element to receive a passing leg for that element. Maximum times for each element must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Maximum times the MN elements must not exceed ten (10) minutes. Each search requires that the handler use their specific search command as indicated on the entry form and score sheet, and state "alert."

Interior searches at this level will also require the handler call "finish." after the dog has located all of the hides in the search area or "clear" in the case of a blank area after the dog has determined that there are no hides in that area. The actual search time will start with the owners search command, or any part of a team member crossing the start line, and will stop when the owner calls the first alert. The process will be repeated for all additional hides. The combined times from each hide will be recorded as the dogs actual search time. No dog and handler team may exceed the maximum element time as posted at the trial.

**Section 7. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than four (4) total faults and still receive a passing leg. If a team receives more than one (1) fault on any specific element they will not receive a pass for that element. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## CHAPTER 14 MASTER NOSEWORK – MN: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS

**Section 1. General Rules.** Master Nosework (MN) titles are achieved after receiving two (2) passing legs earned from Master Nosework trials, or by earning two legs in each element of the Master Individual Element classes. The purpose of the Master Nosework trials is to demonstrate the ability of the dog to detect two or three target odors in four different elements, Containers, Interior, Exterior, and Vehicles. Dogs must successfully find all hides in all four elements in the same trial in order to be eligible for placements or high in trial. Dogs must successfully locate all hides within each element to receive a passing leg toward that particular element. All elements must be entered and searched within the trial, with the exception of a team that has been otherwise determined ineligible to continue. There will be two or three hides in each element. The Certifying official will confirm the number of hides at the Handlers Briefing.

**Section 2. Target Odors & Hides.** Up to four odors may be used in the Master Nosework class. Myrrh is a required odor for this level. The other three eligible odors are: Birch, Anise, and Clove. Odors must be used separately to make up the two or three hides. Handlers will not know the number of hides before their run. No hide can consist of more than one odor. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. Additional odors must be available for replacement in case of contamination. No hides may be higher than four (4) feet.

**Section 3. Alerts.** The Alert must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the element. The official may ask for clarification from the handler on the response prior to the beginning of the element. Alerts at this level must be a single behavior (or chain of behaviors) that is clearly recognized and concise. If a chain of behaviors is specified, they must be specified with “and” and not “or”. Dogs must locate all hides and handlers will be responsible for calling all alerts. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting a specific behavior or final response. Alerts are not required to be a formal obedience type response but the behavior must communicate a decision that has been made on the part of the dog. If a handler calls an Alert that is incorrect, searching within that element will end. Officials may ask “Where?” and handlers must be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything. If correctly identified, a passing search will be awarded.

**Section 4. Distractions** Two distractions are required at this level in each element. Any type of food or toy is considered a distraction. Distractions are described within the specific elements for each class

### Section 5. Element Requirements for MN.

- a.) **Container Search:** The Container search will consist of 20 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area, and on the floor or ground, utilizing at least two different odors. Hidden odors will be utilized as described in Section 2 above. The two distractions must be placed in one of the containers not being used with the target odor. A distraction box must not be immediately next to a target odor box.
- b.) **Exterior Area Search:** The search area outside must be a minimum of 2000 sq feet and no larger than 3000 sq feet. Area to be searched will be identified during the Handlers Briefing. Walking around the outside of the area will be allowed. The official or steward will be available for questions. Neither of the distractions can be immediately next to the target odors.
- c.) **Interior Building Search:** Search area indoors will consist of two areas. One area can be as small as 100 sq feet or as large as 200 sq feet. The second area will be a minimum of 300 sq feet and a maximum of 400 sq feet. These areas may be within a larger area and marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc. Areas may consist of bathrooms, separate rooms, or rooms marked off as designated above. Odors must be used separately to make up the hides; odors cannot be combined together at the same place. No hides higher than four (4) feet. Distractions cannot be immediately next to the target odors. Hides will be as follows:
  1. All hides in one area with one distraction in that area, and a distraction in a blank area (an area without a hide), or
  2. All hides in one area with two distractions in a blank area (an area without a hide), or
  3. One or two hides and one distraction in one area, and the additional hide(s) and one distraction in the other area.

**d.) Vehicle Search:** The search will be done with seven vehicles. Two vehicles may be other than an automobile. Vehicles must be set in a scattered pattern and may face any direction with no specific orientation. All vehicles must be set no less than four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet apart. Any area may be utilized on the vehicles but no hides may be higher than four (4) feet. The distraction cannot be on the same vehicle as the hide but can be on the vehicle next to the vehicle with the hide.

**Section 6. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a passing search and no more than four (4) total faults overall. A passing search is awarded when the handler correctly calls the alerts when the dog finds the hides within the allotted amount of time. Dogs must successfully complete all four search areas to be considered for placements for these trials. Placements are determined by the number of faults then by the dogs actual search time combined from each element. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults regardless of their search time.

Dogs must successfully complete all hides within each element to receive a passing leg for that element. Maximum times for each element must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Maximum times the MN elements must not exceed ten (10) minutes. Each search requires that the handler use their specific search command as indicated on the entry form and score sheet, and state “alert.”

All searches at this level will require the handler call “finish.” after the dog has located all of the hides in the search area or “clear” in the case of a blank area after the dog has determined that there are no hides in that area. The actual search time will start with the owners search command, or any part of a team member crossing the start line, and will stop when the owner calls the first alert. The process will be repeated for all additional hides. The combined times from each hide will be recorded as the dogs actual search time. No dog and handler team may exceed the maximum element time as posted at the trial.

**Section 7. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than four (4) total faults and still receive a passing leg. If a team receives more than one (1) fault on any specific element they will not receive a pass for that element. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## **CHAPTER 15 ELITE NOSEWORK – EN: REQUIREMENTS AND ELEMENTS**

**Section 1. General Rules.** Elite Nosework (EN) titles are achieved after receiving two (2) passing legs earned from passing searches from Elite Nosework trials, or by earning two legs in each element of the Elite Individual element classes or any combination of the two. The purpose of the Elite Nosework trials is to demonstrate the ability of the dog to detect up to four different target odors in four different elements, Containers, Interior, Exterior, and Vehicles. Dogs must successfully find all hides in all four elements in the same trial in order to be eligible for placements or high in trial. Dogs must successfully locate all hides within each element to receive a passing leg toward that particular element. All elements must be entered and searched within the trial, with the exception of a team that has been otherwise determined ineligible to continue. There will be three or four hides in each element. The Certifying official will confirm the number of hides at the Handlers Briefing.

**Section 2. Target Odors & Hides.** All five odors may be used in the Elite Nosework trials. Vetiver is a required odor for this level. All of the other odors are: Birch, Anise, Clove, and Myrrh, Odors must be used separately to make up the three or four hides. No hide can consist of more than one odor. Odors may be securely taped or fastened to a surface, or can be put inside either a plastic or metal sealed container with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area. Scent containers may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. Additional odors must be available for replacement in case of contamination. No hides may be higher than four (4) feet.

**Section 3. Alerts.** The Alert must be stated on the score sheet prior to the start of the element. The official may ask for clarification from the handler on the response prior to the beginning of the element. Alerts at this level must be a single behavior (or chain of behaviors) that is clearly recognized and concise. If a chain of behaviors is specified, they must be specified with “and” and not “or”. Dogs must locate all hides and handlers will be responsible for calling all alerts. When alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting a specific behavior or final response. Alerts are not required to be a formal obedience type response but the behavior must communicate a decision that has been made on the part of the dog. If a handler calls an Alert, that is incorrect,

searching within that element will end. Officials may ask “Where?” and handlers must be able to identify the location of the source by pointing to, or describing the location without touching anything. If correctly identified, a passing search will be awarded.

**Section 4. Distractions.** Three distractions are required at this level in each element. Any type of food or toy is considered a distraction. Distractions are described within the specific elements for each class.

**Section 5. Element Requirements for EN.**

- a.) **Container Search:** The search will be done with containers that will consist of 24 cardboard boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the ring or designated area, and on the floor or ground. Hidden odors will consist of three or four hides. Only one odor can be in any container. Distractions must be placed in one of the containers not being used with the target odor. The distraction box may be placed immediately next to the target odor box. There must be a total of three distractions.
  
- b.) **Exterior Area Search:** The search will be done in one exterior area, outdoors and will be a minimum of 3000 square feet and a maximum of 4000 square feet. Three distractions are required in this element. Distractions may be placed immediately next to the target odor. The area to be searched will be identified during the Handlers Briefing. During the briefing, walking around outside the designated area will be allowed. The official or steward will be available for questions. This area may be marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc. Three distractions are required at this level.
  
- c.) **Interior Building Search:** Search area indoors will consist of three areas. One area can be as small as 100 sq feet or as large as 200 sq feet. The second area will be a minimum of 300 sq feet and a maximum of 400 sq feet. The third area will be a minimum of 400 sq feet and a maximum of 600 sq feet. These areas may be within a larger area and marked off as the designated search area with caution tape, ring gates, etc. Areas may consist of bathrooms, separate rooms, or rooms marked off as designated above. Odors must be used separately to make up the three or four hides; odors cannot be combined together at the same place. Hides will be as follows:
  - 1. The smaller space can contain not more than two items (hides and/or distractions)
  - 2. The larger two spaces may contain not more than three items (hides and/or distractions) in each space.
  
- d.) **Vehicle Search:** The search will be done with seven vehicles. Two vehicles may be other than an automobile. Vehicles must be set in a scattered pattern and may face any direction with no specific orientation. All vehicles must be set no less and four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet apart. Any area may be utilized on the vehicles but no hides may be higher than four (4) feet. Three distractions are required at this level. The distraction can be placed on the same vehicle as the hide.

**Section 6. Scoring and Running Time.** Each leg is based on a passing search and no more than four (4) total faults overall. A passing search is awarded when the handler correctly calls the alerts when the dog finds the hides within the allotted amount of time. Dogs must successfully complete all four search areas to be considered for placements for these trials. Placements are determined by the number of faults then by the dogs actual search time combined from each element. A team with no faults will place above a team with faults regardless of their search time.

Dogs must successfully complete all hides within each element to receive a passing leg for that element. Maximum times for each element must not be exceeded and are determined by the specific competition. Maximum times the SN elements must not exceed ten (10) minutes. Each search requires that the handler use their specific search command as indicated on the entry form and score sheet, and state “alert.” All searches at this level will require the handler call “finish.” after the dog has located all of the hides in the search area or “clear” in the case of a blank area after the dog has determined that there are no hides in that area. The actual search time will start with the owners search command, or any part of a team member crossing the start line, and will stop when the owner calls the first alert. The process will be repeated for all additional hides. The combined times from each hide will be recorded as the dogs actual search time. No dog and handler team may exceed the maximum element time as posted at the trial.

**Section 7. Faults.** A handler/dog team may receive no more than four (4) total faults and still receive a passing leg. If a team receives more than one (1) fault on any specific element they will not receive a pass for that element. Faults are given for infractions and incorrect calls. Faults will affect placements in the competition. Faults may be assigned as described in Chapter 1 - General Rules.

## CHAPTER 16 DEFINITIONS

**Actual Search Time.** The accumulated time on the stopwatch from the time when the handler gives the command to search, or any part of the dog/handler team crosses the starting line to the time when the handler makes the call of “alert”, “finished,” or “clear”. Adding the individual search times results in the “actual search time” which is recorded onto the officials book for placements.

**Air Scenting.** Technique used by a dog to locate a target odor. The dog searches on wind/air currents and works the scent cone to identify the source.

**Alert.** A pre-determined response offered by the dog when the dog has searched for, and located target odors. When a dog has correctly indicated the source of odor and the handler will call an “alert” which can without question be easily identified as such.

**Aggressive Alert.** Any alert behavior that can compromise the integrity of the hides, or damage the area of the hide. Pawing, and biting are examples of aggressive alerts.

**Area of Interest.** A noticeable, readable, physical change in behavior in a dog during a search when the dog reacts to an odor. A pattern of behavior following the dog’s initial reaction to a trained odor. The dog displays enthusiasm and desire to remain and trace the trained odor to its source.

**Blank Area.** A room or area that does not contain any odor for Nosework trials. This will only be found during an interior search.

**Blind.** A dog is blind if it has no useful sight.

**Dog In White (DIW).** A qualified, non-competing dog and handler team at every trial that shall perform all the exercises in the same manner they will occur during the competition. DIW is not required for Handler Discrimination classes. This is to allow the official to verify the integrity of the hides.

**Certifying Officials.** Suitably authorized individuals with relevant training and experience who administer and assess the performance of the canine team. Certifying officials will be in charge of placing all hides in the trial, hold the official briefing, Handlers Briefing and monitor all elements of the trial. The certifying official will have the overall final say at a Nosework trial.

**Chain of Behaviors.** Two or more behaviors that occur in a fixed order.

**Change of Behavior.** A characteristic pattern of behaviors interpreted by the handler that occurs when the dog detects a trained odor. The pattern of behavior may be unique to each dog.

**Clear.** A call made by the handler in a Nosework trial indicating that the area is blank. This will only be found during an interior search.

**Contaminating Odor.** Any odor not ordinarily part of a target odor signature.

**Day-of-show entry.** Most clubs allow entries to be taken on the day of a show or trial. Shows that do not offer day of show entries are designated as “PE (pre-entry) ONLY” in any “Upcoming Event” listings.

**Disqualified.** Dog is determined ineligible for competition.

**Elements.** Designated areas where dogs will be searching for target odors. These elements consist of, Container, Exterior, Interior, and Vehicle searches.



**Element Time.** The time set by the official for each search. No element time shall exceed ten (10) minutes. The element time starts when the dog and handler team cross the start line and stops when the handler calls “finish,” or “clear,” to stop the actual search time. Any team that exceeds the set element time will be assessed a non-qualifying search.

**Entry Form.** An official document required for entry into all licensed events. The entry form provides all of the necessary information regarding the dog being entered into the event as well as the owner information for the dog.

**Excused.** A dog that has been excused by an official in any event may not participate in any other events of the same type in the same show or trial on that day.

**False Alert.** Handler in a Nosework trial calls an “Alert” when there is no odor but the dog has indicated, or when the room has odor but the dog indicates in the wrong area.

**Final Response (Indication).** A behavior that the dog has been trained to exhibit in the presence of a target odor. In Nosework trials, this response must be passive (sit, stare, down, point, etc.).

**Fringe Response.** The dog has a training deficiency and responds on lower thresholds of odor and is not able to work odor truly to source.

**Hide Official.** An individual with relevant training and experience who oversees and scores the performance of the canine and handler during the different elements at NN 1 - EN trials. Hide officials may also officiate at Pre-Trials and all classes of Container Individual Element Trials.

**Immediate Family.** spouse, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, sibling, grandchild, in-law are considered immediate family members.

**Incorrect Response.** In a controlled environment, the dog responds as if a trained odor was present when it is known that it is not. The dog can respond in an incorrect area due to a handler cue, time and distance issues, and novel stimulus.

**Leg.** A passing search toward a Nosework title.

**Miss/Non-indication.** When the dog fails to alert or exhibit the trained behavior in the known presence of the target odor on which the dog was trained.

**Non-Qualifying Search.** Also referred to as an “NQ” or a “Zero score.” A non-qualifying search results from an unsuccessful performance, as specified in these Regulations, or from an unaccepted number of faults designated in Nosework.

**Nosework Trial.** An all-breed event hosted by a licensed club at which officials evaluate the ability of handler and dog teams to perform a series of searches in accordance with the governing rules.

**Passive Response.** A type of response that the dog displays or indicates in a manner that doesn’t disturb the environment after the dog has detected a trained odor. Responses may include but are not limited to sit, stand, or lie down quietly, stare, etc.

**Pre-entry and Pre-entry only.** Some clubs offer pre-entry in addition to day-of-trial entry. Pre-entries must be submitted by a specific date, and are normally lower in price than day-of-trial entries. Trials that do not accept day-of-trial entries are designated as “Pre-Entry Only”

**Residual Odor.** Odor that remains from training aids or actual objects of focus once the aids or objects have been removed.

**Scent Cone.** The path of dispersion that the odor follows in the given wind or air currents, and in a given environment.

**Sportsmanship.** Conduct and attitude considered as befitting participants in sports, especially fair play, courtesy, and grace in losing.

**Staging area.** Area provided by the club for all dogs who have not completed their search. For Handler Discrimination, Pre-Trial classes, and Individual element classes only one staging area will be required. When doing Novice Nosework – Elite Nosework trials there will be a staging area for each element. A steward is required for monitoring the staging area and making sure the dog and handler team on deck is prepared when called.

**Start line.** A line that is easily identifiable by the handler. All teams must start behind the start line. Timing will start as soon as any part of the handler or dog cross the start line.

**Stronger concentration of odor.** Dog responds on a collected pool of odor in an area away from source. This is caused due to wind blowing the odor from the actual source and into another area that catches the odor. With time the area where odor begins to collect and pool becomes a larger quantity of odor that is actually greater than the actual source.

**Target Odor.** Essential oils that are used in Nosework as target scents for dogs to search. The required odors for each level are as follows:

**Novice** – Birch Sweet Oil – Betula Lenta

**Advanced** – Aniseed Oil – Pimpinella Anisum

**Superior** – Clovebud Oil – Eugenia Caryophyllata or Syzgium Aromaticum

**Master** - Myrrh Oil – Commiphora Myrrha

**Elite** - Vetiver Oil – Vetiveria Zizanoides.

**Timed Out.** In Nosework if the handler and dog team run over the set element time during their search.

**Wait List.** A sequential list of all entries that are received after the numerical limit of allowable entries per official has been met, is called a “wait list.”

## **INHERENT RIGHTS AND POWERS OF UKC**

*\*Revised December 18, 2009*

United Kennel Club holds and has reserved to itself certain inherent rights and powers in connection with

conducting its business, registering litters, transferring registrations of dogs, licensing events, and awarding titles. These inherent rights and powers include but are not limited to the following:

United Kennel Club has the right to inspect all reports, scorecards and documents related to UKC events. Some, but not all, of the items subject to inspection are:

- a. Scores;
- b. Disqualifications of dogs for fighting or other reasons;
- c. Errors by the recording person; and
- d. Documentation excluded for any reason.

UKC reserves the right to correct any mistakes found during such inspection whether or not the document has the signature of a Judge or Club Officer. UKC reserves the right to itself and in its sole judgment and discretion, to take such actions and impose such sanctions as would:

- a. Bar an individual from entering or participating in any way in any UKC licensed event.
- b. Bar an individual from transferring or registering any pups or dogs in that person's name (joint or full registration) or to any member of that person's family.
- c. Bar an individual from receiving Championship points for any dog registered in that person's name (joint or full registration).

By way of illustration, the following constitute some, but not all, of the situations calling for the above sanctions:

- a. Falsification or alteration of a UKC Registration Certificate, Pedigree, UKC Easy Entry™ Card or any other UKC document.
- b. Falsification or alteration of any reports of wins issued to UKC
- c. Falsification or alteration of receipts issued by UKC Judges.
- d. Switching, wrongfully using or attempting to use a UKC Registration Certificate, Pedigree, UKC Easy Entry™ Card or any other UKC document.
- e. Selling or attempting to sell a dog with false or incorrect UKC Registration Certificate or Pedigree.
- f. Intimidating, threatening, or injuring a Judge, Club/Association member or official, event participant or spectator, or UKC representative.

The six illustrations given above are only by way of example and UKC reserves to itself its inherent right and power to impose such sanctions in any other circumstances deemed appropriate by UKC.

Any individual who is found guilty by a court of law of a crime involving dogs will be barred from United Kennel Club for an indefinite period. A person shall be considered guilty in a criminal proceeding if they are convicted by a judge, jury, or if they enter a plea bargain or other arrangement to plea to a lesser offense, or if their case is disposed of by any form of deferred adjudication; a person shall be considered guilty in a civil proceeding if they are held responsible or liable by a judge, jury, or if a compromised settlement is reached between the parties.

## **UKC POLICY REGARDING PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH FIGHTING DOGS**

Any individual or group of individuals known by UKC to promote, support, raise dogs for fighting; knowingly sell, give or trade dogs that will be used in fighting; condone or be associated with the facing off, game testing, rolling or pitting of dogs; or arrested for attending and/or participating in a dog fight, will have the following actions taken against them by United Kennel Club:

1. All dog registration privileges will be revoked for life.
  - a. The person(s) will not be permitted to register any litters of puppies.
  - b. The person(s) will not be permitted to transfer ownership of any puppies or adult dogs into their name.
2. The person(s) will be barred for life from participating in or entering any UKC licensed events. Their dogs will not be awarded any UKC Championship points or titles even if handled by another person.
3. The person(s) will be barred for life from advertising in any UKC publications.

Anyone aware of any persons currently involved in such activities as are listed above should report them to United Kennel Club.

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