

Scent Work Glossary of Terms We Will Use

Air Movement- different patterns of air movement within a search area

Air scenting- behavior dogs use to move towards the target odor; head is usually up

“Alert”- word called out when the handler believes the dog has found the source

Active alert- a behavior that a dog gives when it's trying to get to source

Aging - the time between the source placement and the search

Aggressive alert - dog is physically interacting with the source by biting, scratching, etc and disturbs the hide

Aversive- anything the dog finds undesirable or unpleasant

Box- item to place source or a distraction in for searching and may have source in it or may be empty

Blind Search- searching with no knowledge of where source is

Blocking - handler is blocking the dog from an area by their physical position

Clear - when the search team determines that the search is complete and there is no source present

Cocktail - a combination of two or more odors

Cold - search items (box, containers, etc) that have no trace of source odor on them

Compulsion- a dog training philosophy that uses negative reinforcement and positive punishment

Container- any item that is used in a search and may have source in it or may be empty

Contamination - used when the handler drops food in the search area, moves the source, or touch the source

Convection currents- A convection current happens when warm air rises, and cool air falls which then pushes the air into a circular pattern

Cues- an indicator or signal to the dog for a certain behavior that can be verbal, environmental, or physical

Distraction- any item or scent placed in the search area to redirect the dog's attention

False alert- when searching blind the handler indicates a find and it is inaccurate

Finish - once a search is complete the handler gives the cue “finish” to the judge

Fringe - when the dog indicates close the source but not at source

Head snap - dog makes a sudden change in direction when they locate the source trail

Hide - the source odor placed in a container and hidden within the search area

Hot - anything containing the source odor

Indication- a behavior the dog gives that tells the handler they have found the source

Jacobson's Organ (also known as the vomeronasal organ)- located in the nasal cavity opening into the roof of the mouth behind the upper incisors. Serves as a secondary olfactory system for chemical communication

Marker- verbal or physical behavior given by the handler to let the dog know they are right

Olfactory - complex system the dog uses to detect odors in their environment

Pairing-process of putting two things together that communicates to the dog item A predicts item B

Passive alert-an alert where the dog stops and passively tells the handler they have found source (ex. sit or down)

Pheromones-chemicals that animals and humans release to communicate with each other

Pooling odor- when scent collects in an area without a clear direction or flow, causing issues with false alerts, as the pooled odor may have a higher concentration than the source

Redirection- teaching dogs to "do this, not that" by redirecting their attention away from distractions and back to the handler.

Reinforcement- anything (toy, food, game, affection) the dog finds rewarding and positive

Scent Cone- scent spreads out in all directions in a shape that resembles an ice cream cone

Scent pools- areas where scent has collected

Scent trails- a line of scent the dog follows to the source

Source- the location of the scent where all the scent trails, pools, and cones drift from

Tins- container for containing source odor; can be vented or closed and often have magnets on them for elevated hides

Trained Final Response (TFR)- your dog's indication at source. Can be passive or aggressive style.

Turbinates- soft tissue branches in the canine nasal cavity that help warm and moisten incoming air. They are made up of thin bones called maxillo-turbinates that are lined with epithelium, creating a large surface area for the incoming air to pass over

Wind effect- wind can also create a wind effect, where air continues to travel inside a building in the direction of the outside wind