



## **Odor Foundations B - Level 2: Course Syllabus**

Welcome to Odor Foundations B- scent work level 2. This level is typically repeated several times before moving up to Novice & Beyond. In this class you will continue to build skills with your dog to confidently search and alert to source (birch, anise, and clove) with little to no help from you the handler while working with a number of unique environmental challenges.

Teaching your dog scent work is a process of tapping into natural skills and creating confidence. You and your dog will progress at your own pace as you learn. This class is designed to help you further develop the foundational skills and basic understanding of the sport whether you plan to continue for fun or move on to many of the available competitive venues. The level of difficulty will be tailored to you and your dog's evolving skill level as we work to keep it fun for all.

This class can be repeated as many times as necessary before moving up to Novice And Beyond- level 3. After those skills have been mastered there are multiple levels to move to as you and your dog advance. We will be following the AKC scent program and learning the basics for each level they offer.

We will learn:

- Continuing to build an effective reinforcement system for scent work
- How to develop odor commitment to the target odors: birch and anise
- Your dog will learn duration when they have located an odor and stay in position (trained final response)
- How to build confidence and have fun searching for odor in a variety of search scenarios
- Correct handler skills with reading body language, using a long line, and keeping your dog focused

**For your dog to be successful please bring the following items to each class:**

- Flat collar or harness and six-foot leash (please no flexi-leashes or shock collars in class).
- Treat pouch/bag (to help keep your hands free to train) and plenty of small soft treats (something they don't get every day to increase value) such as hot dogs, cheese, chicken, steak. If your dog prefers toy rewards find a good tug to use to reward in class along with treats
- Small mat or towel. \*\*\*Please note, there will be intermediate and large wire crates available onsite to use during class. If your dog requires a special size or you prefer to use your own crate please feel free to bring it to class.
- Something to keep them busy during turns (i.e. snuffle mat, bully stick/chew item, stuffed Kong treat, favorite toy) that are safe to be left in a crate with the dog. Please do not bring toys with squeakers in them, it is too distracting.
- Favorite NON-SQUEAKING tug toy for final reward

**Items you will need to practice outside of class:**

- Long line: ideally 12-15 feet to start with.
  - Using a line takes a bit of getting used to so starting with a shorter length will help you build skills
  - I strongly recommend Biothene as it does not get wet, dirty, or stretches
  - As you progress in the sport you may need a longer line but to begin a 12' - 15' line will work
- A source for lines are:
  - <https://a.co/d/bmXJrg3>
  - Wag Boy/ etsy: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/wagboy#about>
- Variety of tins, containers, and boxes. They do not need to be fancy or unused, but you should have an area to store the "hot" (used with source) and "cold" items so there is not cross contamination

**Things to remember:**

- If your dog is a confident pup, another dog in class might not be. They might not be as comfortable being approached by a strange person or dog. Please try to keep a safe distance between the dogs and be mindful of space when

entering and exiting the building and in tighter areas such as doorways. **We have a “no nose-to-nose greetings” policy in class to ensure all the pups have a great time in class.**

- Practice makes perfect. Plan time throughout the week to practice. Skill building requires repetition.
- Please make sure to give your pup a chance to potty before class. There are waste disposal areas for solid BAGGED waste if needed out front.
- Your dog should have access to water to keep their olfactory system working well and they should have some type of busy object ( Kong, Pupsicle, bully stick, etc) to work on when relaxing in a crate between turns.
- If you are unclear or struggling with a skill, please make sure that you text or email me for help. If I am with a client or in class, I will return your text as soon as possible. Emails are returned each evening when I return to my office. Please reserve phone calls for extreme training emergencies. Please text 734-368-6608 or email [info@pet-behavior.com](mailto:info@pet-behavior.com)
- Dogs will be crated or wait out of the search area
  - You must be mindful of tight spaces and other dogs moving through doorways
  - Dogs will often be overstimulated prior to a search
  - Water is always accessible while dogs are crated or waiting. Dry noses = diminished scenting ability
- Playing with other dogs is off limits during class
- Boxes, containers and scent tins are the most common items used for searches, although training will be generalized to a variety of objects at this level
- Use of rewards – as always in training, we can encourage and reward our dogs with the use of highly desirable rewards (food and tug games are high on the list) and LOTS of verbal praise after a find

If you would like instructional videos on how to do some of the exercises we will learn in class please visit my website at <http://www.pet-behavior.com> On the students page you will need to log in with a password, which is **dognerd**. The syllabus and relevant handouts are also available on that site as well.

## **ODOR FOUNDATIONS- LEVEL 2**

This syllabus is for students who are repeating Odor Foundations. The principles and practices learned in the first round will be used and expanded upon in this session.

Your job will be to help your dog as they search with as little guidance as possible and reward them when they find the source. We will work on dogs learning to work independently, be dedicated to source once it is found, and present them with training scenarios that will strengthen their skills (and yours).

## **SYLLABUS**

**Week One-** Review of skills to date

- Review how to prepare, store, and replace scent
- Trained Final Response review and discussion
- Review scent terminology for the search
  - “Search”or “find it”- the start cue
  - “Get to work” -If the dog is distracted
  - “Yes”, “good”, or other verbal mark- once your dog finds source
  - “Find another” - after finding a source if you are still searching
  - “Too far” - if the dog moves outside the search area
  - “Alert” when your dog indicates
  - “All done” or “Finished” - ending the search
- Search components
  - Communication between handler and dog
  - Odor obedience
  - Hunting behavior
  - Value of odor
- Reverse pairing- revisit it as needed and use when introducing a new odor
  - Two treats per repetition, roughly six repetitions per session

- Toss treat to set dog→put 2nd treat under tin→dog sniffs→lift tin mark/reward→toss treat and repeat
- Review tools to use
  - Tools available in the room and phone apps to use outside of class
    - Scentwork log book- free and premium version available to download from their site
      - [www.dogsnoseknow.com](http://www.dogsnoseknow.com)

**Homework:** please take a moment to read this syllabus in its entirety if you have not already, as well as the handouts provided with your welcome email. Refresh training with reverse pairing strategy, move to pairing with a small bit of duration, then start to generalize it around the house.

**Week Two-** line searches-boxes

- One source per problem
- Discuss AKC scent program and set up for novice
- The environment
  - Air movement in the room
  - Hot air, cold air, doors/windows, and human/dog movement in the search area
  - Doors opening and closing
- Search patterns
  - Approaching from different directions
    - Always keep the dog between you and the boxes, and work in two different directions
  - Mental list of areas searched, areas missed, and areas to revisit
- Your job- we will be playing some leash handling games so please bring an item to occupy your dog while YOU are playing the game
  - Leash handling
    - Long lines and off leash searches
    - Looping strategy
    - Keep moving if you are leading the dog, do NOT stop near the source, move past and return to reward
  - Body language
  - Communication
    - Once you cue the “search” don’t talk unless you are redirecting or rewarding
  - Pressure points
    - Corners and proximity to dog
- Duration drills
  - Using the Odor Pays Box to create dedication to source
- Developing a training schedule and keeping track of progress
  - Keeping a training log of searches to help review overall progress
  - Make sure to note day, time, location, environmental challenges, type of search, and source used
  - Comment on the overall search and note items to work on moving forward

**Homework:** Set up box search at home, do no more than three repetitions in one session. Remember to crate or remove the dog from the room when resetting for the next search and allow 5-10 minutes for scent to pool. KEEP YOUR HOT ITEMS HOT AND YOUR COLD ITEMS COLD! Label everything to avoid confusing your dog.

**Week Three-** container searches

- Containers of various sizes, shapes, and placement to start generalizing the search
  - Dog will search a defined search area
  - Handler skills
    - Your cue, posture, and how to move with your dog during a search
  - Looping to bring them back into position and restart the search
- How to encourage your dog to work independently
  - How to keep them engaged if they become distracted

- Discussion of how a container search is different than a box search
  - Visual presentation
  - Competing odors
  - Dog hasty search then detail search
- Blind searches- handler and dog will not know where the source is prior to starting the search
  - Remember body language
  - Don't be chatty!
  - Let the dog work the room and problem solve
- **Remember:** No obedience cues once you give the search cue - silence is ideal. No helping the dog find the scent - no leaning, eye darting glances or breath holding! Continue to use reverse pairing drills intermittently to help build a solid TFR.

**Homework:** Alternate between a simple three box line and containers with only one source each round in a distraction free room. Practice no more than twice a day, every 2nd or 3rd day. If the dog disengages then stop the exercise and pick it up later. Leave the room between the searches and let them play for ten to fifteen minutes before the second search. On the days in between do simple reverse pairing exercise. **GOOD TIME TO VIDEO YOUR SEARCHES AND CRITIQUE YOUR HANDLING SKILLS.**

#### **Week Four-** room searches

- Dog will search a defined search area
- Discuss residual scent
- Discuss when to start varying the concentration of training source
- Continue to work on dedication to source and building a strong indication

**Homework:** Alternate between boxes, containers, and a room search with only one source in a distraction free room. Practice no more than twice a day, every 2nd or 3rd day. If the dog disengages then stop the exercise and pick it up later. Leave the room between the searches and let them play for ten to fifteen minutes before the second search. On the days in between do simple reverse pairing exercise.

#### **Week Five-** Performing an outdoor search

\*\*\*note: if the weather permits we will work outside, dress accordingly. If the weather is averse we will work indoors and discuss structuring your outdoor practice sessions at home.

- Types of outdoor searches
  - Vehicles
  - Exterior search areas
  - Tracking
  - Buried/Water
- How to assess the search area BEFORE the search
  - Wind, temperature, obstacles, possible hazards
  - Determine best direction to begin in
- Supporting your dog
  - During the search
  - After the search
- Using video to help strengthen your searches

**Homework:** Alternate between types of searches with only one source in a distraction free room. Practice no more than twice a day, every 2nd or 3rd day. If the dog disengages then stop the exercise and pick it up later. Leave the room between the searches and let them play for ten to fifteen minutes before the second search.

**Week Six-** Dealers choice, surprise searches! We will review all the exercises used in prior weeks.

## 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

### **Key things to remember about essential oils**

- Many essential oils are harmful or toxic if ingested. Please store your oils in an area that your dog does not have any access to.
  - Sweet birch, clove, and anise are toxic to pets
    - These oils should never be used in a diffuser that will have pets in the room
- Some oils will solidify in cooler temperatures. If this happens, set the entire bottle in a container of warm water for a short time until it returns to a liquid.
- Oils should be stored in a cool, dry place in their original glass containers. Amber vials are better for storage as they preserve the oil better by restricting light.
- Buy your oils from a reputable business so you are certain of the quality and purity.
  - Leerburg <https://leerburg.com/noseworkequip.htm?loc=sportMegaMenu>
  - K9 Nosework Supply <https://k9nwsupply.com/shop/>
- Replace your oils once a year. Oils have a tendency to break down depending on how they are stored and the quality. Oil can also go rancid which will greatly impact your dog's training, so please be careful with storage. Date all your oils when purchased, not opened, as they will have a distinct shelf life.
- Clean your vessels and tins about every three to six months using Dawn dish soap and hot water. Rinse very, very well so there is no soap residue to add to the odor profile.
- Always treat handling oils like handling wet paint, it will get everywhere! Use disposable gloves to always handle your vessels and dispose of all used gloves and Q-tips in an outside can the dog does not have access too.
- Never leave the dropper in the oil vial/dram as the oil will degrade and break down the plastic and silicone impacting the scent of the oil itself. Use the dropper and store it outside the bottle with the original cap back on the bottle.
- When using tins and vessels with magnets, the magnets should be INSIDE the vessel, not outside, in case your dog swallows it. If it is inside the vessel it will likely pass through the dog's GI. If it is outside, it will likely not and necessitate a veterinary visit for removal.
- Your odor preparation kit should include these basics
  - Gloves
  - Tweezers or hemostats
  - Q-tips cut in half
  - Tins, vessels, hide materials
  - Oil(s) of choice with dropper and glass container to keep it in
  - Odor safe box to store all hot (source) items in

### **Preparing odor**

Preparing your hides should be done in such a way that you are careful not to contaminate the work area and objects you will be touching with the oils. Gloves are a MUST! Videos are available on my student support page.

### **Resources for your training**

Organizations:

- C-WAGS: <https://c-wags.org/>
- National Association of Canine Scent Work: <https://www.nacsw.net/>
- American Kennel Club: <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-scent-work/>
- United Kennel Club: <https://www.ukcdogs.com/nosework>
- Canine Performance Events: <https://cpe.dog/>
- Cyber Scent Work: <https://www.cyberscentwork.com/>

Supplies:

K9 NWSupply: <https://k9nwsupply.com/akc-scentwork-supplies-essential-oils-scented-qs-kits/>

All Good Dogs: <http://www.allgooddogs.biz/products>

Paws 4 Fun: <http://www.paws4fun.net/>

J & J Dog Supplies: <https://www.jjdog.com/nosework-kit-essential-oils-scent-kit>

Leerburg: <https://www.jjdog.com/nosework-kit-essential-oils-scent-kit>

**FROM THE AKC RULEBOOK FOR SCENT TRIALS**

**Section 2. Odors.** The target odors shall be Birch (*Betula Lenta*), Anise (*Pimpinella Anisum*), Clove (*Eugenia caryophyllata*), and Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) .

Novice classes shall utilize Birch only. Advanced classes may utilize Birch and/or Anise. Excellent classes may utilize Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove. Master Classes may utilize Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Cypress Container

Novice Class: Ten identical cardboard box containers (see Chapter 5, Section 11 above for size requirements) are laid out on the floor of the search area. The boxes are arranged in two rows of five containers . Each box must be at least 12" apart, and each row must be at least 36" apart. The search area must be at least 250 and no more than 400 square feet . One of the containers holds the target odor of Birch. The dog has two minutes to locate the container with the target scent and communicate the find to its handler. The handler must call "Alert" when the dog indicates the find. The Container Novice Class is open to all dogs .

Container Advanced Class: Fifteen containers of various sizes and types are laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in three rows of five containers, in a circle, or in a "U" formation. Each container must be at least 12" apart, and if rows are used, each row must be at least 36" apart. The search area must be at least 400 and no more than 600 square feet. Two of the containers hold the target odor, which may be Birch or Anise (each scent vessel may contain the same odor, or one may contain Birch and the other may contain Anise). One non-food distraction will be placed in the search area. The distraction may be in a container or loose in the search area. If in a container, it may NOT be in the same container as the odor. The dog has two minutes to locate the containers with the target scents and communicate the finds to its handler. The handler must call "Alert" when the dog indicates each find. After the second "Alert" call, the handler must call "Finish" to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time. The Container Advanced Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Container Novice (SCN) title .

**The Container Element**

	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Scent</b>	Birch	Birch and/or Anise	Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove	Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Cypress
<b># of Containers</b>	10	15	20	20
<b>Type of Containers</b>	Identical cardboard boxes	Various size and type	Various size and type	Various size and type
<b>Arrangement</b>	2 rows of 5 containers	3 rows of 5 containers, circle, or "U" formation	4 rows of 5 containers, circle, or "U" formation	4 rows of 5 containers, circle, or "U" formation
<b>Minimum Distance b/w Containers</b>	12" in all directions 36" between rows	12" in all directions If rows are used, 36" between rows	12" in all directions If rows are used, 36" between rows	12" in all directions If rows are used, 36" between rows
<b># of Hides</b>	1 (Known)	2 (Known)	3 (Known)	1-3 (Unknown)
<b>Time Limit</b>	2 minutes	2 minutes	3 minutes	4 minutes
<b>Distractions</b>	None	1 non-food distraction	2- non-food, food, auditory, or visual	3- non-food, food, auditory, visual, human, or mimic
<b>Required calls</b>	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) and Finish
<b>Size of Search Area</b>	250-400 sq ft	400-600 sq ft	600-800 sq ft	600-800 sq ft