

Berrien County Youth Fair
Dog Department - 22; Divisions 1 and 2
INCLUSIVE SCENT WORK JUDGING PROGRAM AND GUIDELINES
Approved 2022 / written 2/11/2023/lsc

Please note: Scent Work judging program and guidelines will advance each year the Berrien County Youth Fair has the event. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to obtain the judging program and guidelines of each event the exhibitor enters.

SECTION ONE SCENT WORK EVENT REGULATIONS

Major Event - Scent Work Event is a Berrien County Youth Fair major exhibit.

Earning an AKC Scent Work Title at the Berrien County Youth Fair - As the Berrien County Youth Fair is not an American Kennel Club sanctioned dog show AKC scent work titles cannot be earned.

How Many Canine(s) May I Enter? - Only one canine may be entered in the Novice Classes.

Sharing Canine(s) - Sharing of a canine in the TR Scent Work event and/or class is prohibited.

Where do I begin? - All exhibitors and his or her team canine shall begin in **Container Element; Novice A Class**.

Qualifying Search - Any search in which the "hide" is found and called within the allotted time, and no non-qualifying faults or behaviors requiring excusals are committed, is considered a qualifying search (aka "Direct Hide").

Judge's Decisions - **JUDGE'S DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

SECTION TWO TOOLS OF THE TRADE

1. Scent Work Tools Needed - The exhibitor's team shall need the following scent work equipment ...

- a. **Team Communication** - Exhibitor will need to verbally encourage his or her canine to search and find.
- b. **Collar OR Harness** - A collar OR harness may be used but not both.
 - a. **Collar** - A slip, martingale or buckle collar may be used by the canine.
 - b. **Harness** - Canine may wear a properly fitted harness made of plain, pliable material and will be designed so that there is minimal restriction of the canine's movements.
- c. **Leash** - Four-foot (4') to six-foot (6') leash will be used. Leash should be clean and in repair. Leash may be made of fabric or leather. Canine must enter and exit the search area on leash. The leash can be used to gently guide the dog away from the boundaries of the search area but cannot be used as a corrective device.
- d. **Treats** - A treat pouch or fanny pack may be worn by the exhibitor to carry food rewards. **REMEMBER: FOOD REWARDS CANNOT TOUCH THE GROUND IN THE SCENT RING.**

Accessories - Canine may be outfitted with accessories such as paw covers or booties, jackets, sweaters, and hair ties or bows as the exhibitor deems necessary for the canine to safely navigate the search area but without interference with the search. The final word on whether or not an accessory is allowed shall rest with the judge.

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🚫 **Tools That Cannot Be Used** - Electronic collars, odor-emitting collars, prong collars, head halters, choke chains, a no-pull harness and a retractable leash are prohibited.

🚫 **SECTION THREE** **PREPARATIONS**

Staging Area - Exhibitor MAY NOT SEE OR OBSERVE the Search Ring until called to the ring for his or her search. Therefore the exhibitor's team shall remain in the staging area until called to the Search Ring.

Setting Up Element and Class Judging Area : Ten identical cardboard box containers 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 three minutes to locate the container with the target scent and communicate the find to its exhibitor. **The exhibitor must call "ALERT" when the dog indicates the find.**

🚫 **SECTION FOUR** **Element and Class Offered for 2023 -**

<i>ELEMENT INFORMATION:</i>	
Element:	CONTAINER
Class:	NOVICE A
Scent:	BIRCH
Search Time Limit:	Three (3) Minutes
Number of Hides:	1
Hide is:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Known <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Distractions:	None
Required Calls:	Alert Only

<i>SEARCH AREA SET UP:</i>	
Size of Search Area:	Fourteen feet (14') by eighteen feet (18')
Number of Containers:	10
Type of Containers:	Identical Cardboard Boxes
Arrangement of:	Two (2) rows of five (5) containers each
Minimum Distance Between Rows:	Thirty-six inches (36") in all directions
Minimum Distance Between Containers:	Twelve inches (12") in all directions

🚫 **SECTION FIVE** **TIME AND ALERTS**

- Time** - Exhibitor's team shall be allotted a specific time frame in which to accomplish the finding of the "hide." Faults will be added in seconds to the exhibitor's time as a means of deciding on qualification and tie breaker for class placement.

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2. **Alerts** - No specific or formal alert behavior is required from the dog, but there must be a change in behavior from the dog such that the judge can tell that the dog has found the scent. The change in behavior may be extremely subtle, for example, a turn of the head or twitch of the ears.

SECTION SIX SCORING

1. **Time** - The exhibitor's team will be given three (3) minutes to find the hide. The exhibitor's team with the least amount of time will be in first place, the next highest time will be in second place, and so forth.
2. **Faults or Errors** - One (1) to two (2) seconds will be added to the exhibitor team's time for every fault or error the team makes (*see judge's worksheet*).
3. **Compromising the Search Area** - Two (2) seconds will be added to the exhibitor team's time every time the exhibitor drops food on the course.
4. **NTR Team** - Should the NTR team come into the scent ring with a Team Instructor an automatic three (3) seconds will be added to their time.

SECTION SEVEN QUALIFYING AND NON-QUALIFYING PERFORMANCE, FAULT EXPLANATION, VALUE AND EXCUSAL

In order for a team to qualify, dog and exhibitor must work together and be able to read each other's reactions. Communication and praise during the search is highly encouraged.

1. **A Qualifying Performance** - The dog's performance is judged on a qualify/non-qualify basis. A qualifying performance is achieved when the exhibitor successfully locates and calls all hides in a search area within the time allowed for the class without committing any non-qualifying faults earning an "A" ribbon.
2. **Fault Explanation** - Teams that commit errors during the search will be assessed faults. Each fault can be given multiple times in the same search, if warranted. Faults affect placements only; there is no maximum number of faults per run. Any team who finds and calls all of the hides within the search time with no NQ faults will qualify. Faults will not be called out by the judge during the search. The judge should briefly explain any faults assessed to the exhibitor at the completion of the search if time allows.
3. **Fault Value** -
 - a. **NTR Exhibitor's Team** - Should the NTR Exhibitor choose to work with his/her Team Instructor in the scent work ring with him/her, three (3) seconds will be added to their time.
 - b. For each fault, error and/or concern there will be one (1) second added to the exhibitor's time.
 - c. For mildly compromising the area, two (2) seconds will be added to the exhibitor's time.
4. **Scent Work faults are** -
 - a. **Exhibitor's Error** - (pulling the dog off scent, excessive interference with a dog that is working, exhibitor actively looking for the scent vessel)
 - b. **Safety Concern** (taking the dog off-leash in an on-leash only search area, allowing the dog to be put in an unsafe situation.

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- c. **Mildly compromising the search area** (exhibitor moving an object in the search area without the judge's permission, messy reward delivery).
5. **Non-Qualifying Faults** - The following behaviors will result in a non-qualifying performance.
- a. The exhibitor calls "Alert" on the incorrect location.
 - b. The exhibitor calls "Finish" before all hides in the area have been located.
 - c. The maximum time for the class or search area is exceeded.
 - d. The exhibitor is not able to point to the location of the hide when asked by the judge.
 - e. Any harsh handling or harsh corrections by the exhibitor.
 - f. The exhibitor allows the dog to disrupt the search area unduly. This includes excessive food residue, or intentional biting, hard scratching, pouncing or other by the dog that causes damage to the container/object/area. Cases in which a dog's nose or feet get caught on containers or other objects shall not be considered a disruption of the area
6. **Excusal** - A dog who is excused from a search must vacate the search area immediately. Dogs should be excused from the search if, in the opinion of the judge, any of the criteria below are met.
- a. The dog is not under the exhibitor's control.
 - b. The dog or exhibitor stops working or performs disruptive behavior for 10 or more seconds after warning from the judge.
 - c. The dog eliminates (urinates, defecates, or vomits) in the search area.
 - d. The dog shows signs of extreme stress or fear.
 - e. The exhibitor receives assistance from a spectator or another exhibitor.
 - f. The exhibitor requests to be excused, for any reason.
 - g. Other reasons, at the judge's discretion

 **SECTION EIGHT AWARDS**

Class Rosettes - First through sixth place class rosettes shall be awarded.

 **SECTION NINE PERSONNEL NEEDED FOR SCENT WORK EVENT**

- 1. Judge
- 2. Hide Steward
- 3. Timekeeper
- 4. Table Secretary
- 5. Staging Area Steward x 2
- 6. Gate Steward x 2

Berrien County Youth Fair - Dog Department

SCENT WORK JUDGE'S WORK SHEET

BCYF ID: _____

Dog's Name: _____

Exhibitor's Name: _____

Dog's Breed: _____

ELEMENT ENTERED: **CONTAINER**

CLASS: **NOVICE A**

Class Time Limit:

3

Minutes

Actual Run Time:

	Hides:
Number of Hides:	_____
Number of Finds:	_____

Judge's Tally of Faults: (Judge will tally as faults occur)	
Exhibitor's Error:	_____
Safety Concern:	_____
Mild Disruption of Area:	_____

Exhibitor's Team is: TR NTR

QUALIFIED

No faults

Premium Ribbon Earned:

A

QUALIFIED WITH FAULTS

- NTR team came into SW Ring with Team Instructor
- Exhibitor's error
- Safety Concerns
- Mildly compromising the search area

Premium Ribbon Earned:

B

Automatic 3 seconds added to time
 1 second added to time for each error
 1 second added to time for each error
 2 seconds added to time for each error

NON-QUALIFIED

- Incorrect Alert/Finish call
- Harsh correction
- Significant disruption(s) of area
- Handler unable to point to hide
- Max time exceeded

Premium Ribbon Earned:

C

1 second added to time for each error
 1 second added to time for each error
 1 second added to time for each error
 1 second added to time for each error

EXCUSED

- Dog eliminated in search area
- Dog overly stressed
- Handler Request
- Other: _____

Premium Ribbon Earned:

None

NQ
 NQ
 NQ
 NQ

Judge's Comments: