

OFFICIAL UKC NOSEWORK RULEBOOK



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The United Kennel Club would like to thank Karen A. Shivers for her continued dedication to the sport of dogs and the promotion of Nosework. It is her contribution and determination to make Nosework available for every UKC dog and handler that has made UKC Nosework grow and *flourish*.

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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 like *single purpose K-9* detection dogs *whose duties include searching for drugs and explosives, locating missing people and finding crime scene evidence*. The *Nosework 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 *is meant for all breeds and types of dogs. It enables them* 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 *meant for all dogs and handlers no matter their physical abilities and structure*. All dogs under reasonable control as determined by the official should be able to participate in Nosework events. *Nosework allows unlimited communication between dog and handler. The Official should only be concerned with 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 try to help new exhibitors. *Beginners are critical to the* future of the sport. 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 ***must know the rules before competing and abide by them.***

Exhibitors are NOT allowed in the ***search*** areas of the trial until after they have run their search. If any exhibitor is found to be in the working ***search areas*** prior to their run, they will be excused from the event and ineligible to run any dogs for that day.

Exhibitors may choose one (1) person 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. To protect the integrity of the hides all photos and videos are to be kept private until the completion of the trial, and all placements have been awarded for that trial. Exhibitors and spectators who have observed any searches are prohibited from discussing any detail in relation to or the operation of the trial with any other exhibitor or spectator, other than to say they passed or failed. Exhibitors and/or spectators must not discuss any details verbally or electronically, including through social media, texting, or video of any nosework run. Doing so could result in their dog's performance being invalidated. In such cases, no refunds will be granted for any searches not completed. A club may designate an official photographer/videographer for use in the search area. If the club designates an official photographer /videographer, they may restrict all other people from taking photos or videos while in the search area. If no designated photographer/videographer is present, the exhibitor is only allowed one (1) person to take photos or videos while in the search area.

The club may provide an area for exhibitors who are entered in the trial that is located away from the working area. Handlers may carry their dog's reinforcer or reward with them during the search.

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 All-Breed Events and Misconduct and Discipline Guidelines*, and the *Official UKC Nosework Rulebook*.

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, 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. 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 and they need not accept or seek the opinion of a veterinarian.

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.

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 they need not seek the opinion of a veterinarian.

Dogs with disabilities: Deaf dogs, blind dogs, and dogs that have lost use of or are missing all or part of one or more limbs may participate in Nosework trials but must be able to perform all required searches. ***Provisions may be made for dogs with rear support wheelchairs/K9 carts, such as running last, etc.*** 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 accept or 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 to be eligible for the Total Junior award (when offered). A Junior Handler may not have reached their eighteenth birthday as of January 1st of the competition year. After December 31st of the year in which the junior turns 18 years of age, 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 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 only handle one dog in each class. An exhibitor may enter more than one dog in the same class if a separate handler is provided for each dog. Exhibitors may enter and handle more than one dog in a trial provided the additional dog(s) are entered in a different class or from all other entries being handled by that exhibitor. ***Dogs that are not owned by the exhibitor or a member of the exhibitor's immediate family must be entered in the "B" classes.***

Handlers with Disabilities. Only one person may handle a dog in the **search** area(s). Handlers may use a wheelchair, crutches, cane or any other means of mechanical assistance in this area. The judge may also make reasonable modifications to the extent that it assists the handler. No modification may be made that gives any advantage to the handler's dog or that changes the dog's part of the required **search**/performance in any way.

Section 4. Eligibility of Dogs Owned by Officials and Immediate Family/Household of Officials. *Official UKC Rules for All-Breed Events and Misconduct and Discipline Guidelines* will apply, except the term "Judge" and "Judging" shall be replaced by the terms "Official" and "Officiating". Certifying 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 or for any immediate family/household member to be exhibited in the event in which they are officiating.

Section 5. Back-Up Certifying Official System. Nosework officials' dogs and/or immediate family/household members may compete in the same trial that the official is assigned to under the following provisions: The official must notify the club in advance that they wish to enter a dog in an event they are assigned to officiate.

- a. 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.
- b. Dog(s) owned by the chief certifying official and/or immediate family/household member 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.
- c. Officials are prohibited from interrupting their assignment to exhibit.
- d. Officials competing in the events in which they are officiating will not be eligible for placements or awards.
- e. Assigned back-up certifying officials will be eligible for any 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 attends 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. Clubs who assign or allow a back-up judge to officiate at a trial where one has not been published on the UKC website could result in disciplinary action as outlined under the *Official UKC Rules for All-Breed Events and Misconduct and Discipline Guidelines*.

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 not to be accepted by the Event Secretary/Manager. ***In the Master and Elite classes, it is the responsibility of the handler to ensure that the dog's "alert" behavior(s) is listed and clearly defined on the entry form for each trial.***

All Nosework classes (Novice-Elite), and elements do not have to be offered at every licensed Nosework trial. UKC Nosework titles may only be earned in licensed trials. Elements may be officiated in any order as determined by the host club.

Section 8. Certifying Official's Limits. Clubs should make every effort to ensure that an official's assignment does not exceed eight hours per day based on the number of entries *per judge, per day*.

If entries for a Nosework trial exceed the eight-hour time limit for an official prior to the pre-entry deadline date, the club must:

- Contact UKC and request approval to exceed the eight-hour judging time limit, or,
- Hire an overflow official following the overflow judge procedures.

Section 9. Entry Limits. Clubs that have set an entry limit for *less than the maximum eight-hour time limit per judge* may not accept any additional entries over their published limit unless the club has established a wait list. Procedures and rules *regarding* wait list are provided in this rulebook.

Clubs that have not set entry limits must use the *eight-hour time limit per judge per day* to determine how many entries they can accept *without exceeding an* eight-hour judging time. *Clubs must allow an appropriate set-up time within the eight-hour daily limit per judge.*

Nosework classes are assigned a certain number of minutes per class to help estimate judging time. When accepting entries, the trial secretary must not assign more entries to any judge than is permitted by the eight-hour limit. If an unexpected error occurs, such as the trial running behind or a mistake in calculation, judges should not stop their assignment. They should finish their assignment and make a note on their final judge's books.

Nosework Working Calculator: This will estimate the average amount of time assigned to each judge and allow trial secretaries to determine when limits have been reached. The calculator is available for download at the UKC website.

UKC Nosework Classes	8 hr (480 min) per day/per judge (element and level dependent)
Novice Elements	1 – 2.5 minutes per entry
Advanced Elements	1 – 3 minutes per entry
Superior Elements	2 – 3 minutes per entry
Master Elements	2 – 4 minutes per entry
Elite Elements	2.5 – 4.5 minutes per entry
HD Novice, Advanced and Excellent	1 minute per entry
HD Master	2 minutes per entry

Section 10. Overflow Official. A club must hire an overflow official if the *8-hour time limit* for an official is exceeded by at least 2 hours before the pre-entry deadline date. The overflow official must be requested and approved by the UKC in writing, prior to the event. The club must provide an approved official for the overflow assignment and submit that official's name with the request. The club will assign the duties of the overflow official for that trial.

If a Back-Up Certifying Official was approved for the trial, they may also act as an over-flow official if qualified. The overflow official may also act as the backup official if qualified, but may not officiate for any class they may be entered in.

Section 11. Wait Lists and Entry Acceptance Options. UKC Clubs holding a license for Nosework events may use the following methods for accepting pre-entries.

- Traditional.** As the entries are received, they are numbered and assigned spots in the trial until the trial has met the posted entry limits or the amount of entries for the trial has reached the *eight-hour time limit* allowed per judge. It is recommended that trial secretaries open envelopes, *and/or record the date and*

time that electronic entries are received to ensure all the entries are valid. Invalid entries shall be returned to the sender as soon as possible.

b. Wait List. Clubs that establish an entry limit may accept entries over the limit provided they establish a “wait list” of all entries that are received over the limit and kept 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.

c. Random Draw. Clubs using the Random Draw acceptance method must provide an entry opening date as well as all the additional required dates, times and location information when applying for their event license. Random Draw entries are all treated equally without regard to date/time received.

1. Draw Period. Clubs determine a “Draw Period” during which time entries are accepted for the Random Draw. The start time and date of the Draw Period will be the same as the Opening Date for the pre-entries to be accepted. The Draw Period must be at least seven (7) days in length (14 days recommended) and must have a defined closing date and time.

2. Entries. All entries received during the Draw Period shall be accepted for the Random Draw and will be treated equally without regard to the date received or any other criteria. UKC recommends that trial secretaries open envelopes **and/or record the date and time that electronic entries** as they are received to ensure all the entries are valid. Invalid entries shall be returned to the sender as soon as possible.

3. Conducting the Random Draw. If the entry limit(s) is exceeded during the “Draw Period” the club shall conduct a Random Draw of all entries received. Otherwise, the Random Draw is not necessary. The Random Draw shall be held within 48 hours of the closing date and time of the “Draw Period.” The date, hour, and location of the random draw must be stated on the UKC Upcoming Events Listing. The drawing is to be held in a place accessible to the public. The results of the draw will be made available to the people present. One drawing shall be held for consecutive trials. If one trial fills before the others, the draw will continue for the remaining entries in each corresponding trial. If the last envelope, **or electronic entry** selected in the Random Draw contains entries that would exceed the total entry limit, there shall be a manual or computerized random draw of the individual entries contained in the envelope **or electronic entry**. When the advertised entry limit has been reached, all remaining entries shall be drawn to establish the order of the wait list. If openings in the trial become available prior to the closing date, the opening shall be filled in order by entries on the Wait List.

4. Who Draws. One secretary or one group of cooperating secretaries shall conduct the draw. In conducting the drawing for entries, it is the responsibility of the Trial Secretary to avoid any method that raises questions as to its randomness and impartiality.

The drawing may be:

- **Manual:** Trial Secretary selects envelopes **or electronic entries** (or numbers assigned to each envelope) at random and entries contained within each envelope shall gain entry to trial up to the stated entry limits.
- **Computerized:** The computerized method must be impartial, must select all entries submitted in one envelope **or electronic entry** as one group, and must conform to the standards of random selection.

d. Secured Entries for Trial Workers. Clubs offering the “Random Draw” acceptance method may also elect to offer “Secured Entries” for Trial workers.

1. The club may secure entry spots for “Trial Workers” who have agreed to work at the trial. Entry spots filled by “Trial Workers” are part of the “Total Entry Limit” stated in the premium list. Although

there is no limit on the number of dogs a designated “Trial Worker” may run, it is recommended that clubs select workers who will handle no more than two (2) dogs.

2. Clubs using the secured entry system must provide all the required dates, times and additional information when applying for their event license. No Secured Entry may be transferred. The maximum number of “workers” who may receive secured entry spots are as follows:
 - 25 “workers” for Trial 1
 - 25 “workers” for Trial 2

Section 12. Temporary Listing (TL) Numbers. TL numbers are only valid at conformation, performance, and Pointing Dog events. TL numbers may be purchased through the UKC website twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. You may also purchase a TL number by contacting UKC Show Operations 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 (PL) numbers.

Section 13. 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 in the same element at the same trial. (*example Novice A Container and Advance A Container*)
- No dog may be entered in the “B” section of an Advanced or higher class and be entered in the “A” section of a lower level class within an element at the same trial. (*example: Superior B Interior and Advance A Interior*)
- Once a dog has obtained any element title, the dog may continue to compete in that element provided the dog is entered and competes in the “B” section of the Nosework class.
- Nosework officials, professional and/or amateur Nosework instructors are only eligible to enter in the B section of all Nosework classes.
- No Nosework class may be entered for exhibition only.

Section 14. 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 15. 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 **search** 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 many 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 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. ***If other events are being held in conjunction with Nosework trials,*** 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 16. 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 ***or search/alert details.*** 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 ***trial*** grounds, on the day of their last assignment. The official is required to keep all their books on file for a period of one year after their assignment.

Section 17. Facility Requirements. All Nosework working areas must have 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 18. Placements, Awards, and Ribbons.

Class Placements: *For Element and Class Trials:* The official shall give up to four placements, for passing searches in each section of each class, based on the ***running time and if a fault was incurred. First place must be awarded to the dog with the fastest time and no faults; second place to the dog with the next fastest time and no faults; and so forth. Placements will continue by determining the fastest times without any faults. Teams that qualify for a placement that have incurred a fault will always be placed after teams with no faults with the fastest time and one fault followed by the second fastest time with one fault, and so forth.*** If two or more dogs have ***one fault***, 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.

For Class Trials: Exhibitors are not required to be entered in all four elements to be eligible to enter a class trial but must be entered in all four elements to be eligible for placements in the class trial.

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 logo. 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 and Section B 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
- Total Dog Qualifier – Red, Black & White
- Total Junior Qualifier – Teal, Black & White

Section 19. Total Dog. Total Dog Award. A club offering conformation and at least one eligible performance event may apply to offer the Total Dog Award when submitting its “Event Application for a Scheduled Weekend”. Clubs hosting more than one conformation and/or performance event on the day Total Dog awards are offered may have all events considered eligible when determining Total Dog qualifiers.

1. Eligible dogs. Dogs that are permanently registered with UKC as of the day of the show, and dogs that have a valid Temporary Listing (TL) number as of the day of the show, are eligible to compete for the Total Dog Award.
2. Requirements for Total Dog Award. To be eligible for this award, a dog must meet the requirements listed below. a. Compete in regular or altered conformation with competition and win one of the following classes:
 - 1) Best Male/Female of Variety
 - 2) Best Male/Female
 - 3) Best of Winners
 - 4) Champion
 - 5) Grand Champion
 - 6) Best of Breed
 - 7) Group 1 through 4 (Note: Group 4 win only counts if there are five or more breeds in the Group class.)
 - 8) Best In Show
 - 9) Reserve Best In Show
3. Earn a qualifying score in a licensed class at a UKC Performance Event (Agility, Obedience, Rally Obedience, Nosework, Drag Race [Aptitude tests not applicable], Lure Coursing [Aptitude tests not applicable], Weight Pull or UKC Licensed Hunt events).
4. For this award, competition through Best of Breed is defined as defeating another dog of the same breed. If there is no competition of the same breed, a Best of Breed winner who defeats another dog of a different breed by placing in the Group, by winning Best or Reserve Best In Multi-Breed Show, or by winning Best or Reserve Best In Show shall be considered to have a win with competition.

Total Junior: All clubs offering Total Dog recognition and awards must also offer Total Junior recognition and awards. See the UKC Official Junior Rulebook for requirements.

CHAPTER 2 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 **search area**. Training on the **trial** 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 **search area(s)**. 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 **designated warm-up** area. One handler/dog team at a time can use this area. Dogs on deck will have priority. **Clubs should periodically monitor warm-up areas to be certain boxes are maintained and not contaminated to the point of being unusable.** 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 if 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 **trial** 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. Requirements for Equipment provided by the Club. A club hosting a UKC licensed Nosework trial must provide the following equipment:

Search Area Supplies. Items such as pens, pencils, calculators, and clipboards must be available for use **at the search area** by the official(s) and stewards.

Scent Kit. All odors should be 100% Pure Therapeutic Grade **Essential** oils, 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. Clove Oil – *Eugenia Caryophyllata* or *Syzygium Aromaticum*
- Master. Myrrh Oil – *Commiphora Myrrha*
- Elite. Vetiver Oil – *Vetiveria Zizanoides*.

Scent Receptacle: *A receptacle that holds the scent aid and prevents the aid from coming into direct contact with any object or surface in the search area but allows odor to escape. Receptacles may not be glass. If plastic is used for scent receptacles, the scent aid must be removed from the plastic container for storage. (Examples of receptacles include, but are not limited to, plastic straw, empty lip balm tube, metal tin, etc.). Receptacles should have enough openings to ensure adequate ventilation of odor permeation.*

Preparation of Odors / scenting aids. Cotton swabs made of 100% cotton with bonded paper, commonly known as Q-tips® are used as the aid to place the target odor. Scenting aids for hides may be prepared up to 24 - 48 hours prior to the trial or be prepared on the day of the trial. If prepared prior to the trial, aids should be stored in a manner that will not alter or degrade the quality and character of the oils. 1ml plastic pipettes are recommended, but not required, for use in measuring the appropriate amount of essential oil for the hide. Nitrile gloves should be worn when preparing and setting hides.

- When hides are prepared in advance, no more than 2 aids (each end of the cotton swab is considered 1 aid) will be allowed in any hide container for any search, with no more than 1 drop (0.05ml) of the specific target odor placed upon each end of the cotton swab for each hide.
- Hides prepared the day of the trial will be limited to 1 aid, (1 end of the cotton swab) allowed in any hide container for any search with no more than 1 drop (0.05ml) of the specific target odor placed on the end of each cotton swab for each hide.
- Scenting aids must be prepared for each trial.
- All aids, once set in the search area, must have a wait time of at least 10 minutes once set prior to the Dog In White (DIW), and the first dog running the class.
- Scenting aid (cotton swab) – One (1) cotton swab cut in half. Both ends may be scented with the same odor but once cut in half would count as 2 scenting aids.
- Scenting aids must be sealed in glass jars when not being used and properly stored away from the search and/or practice area(s). There is no limit as to how many aids can be prepared if each different odor has a separate sealed glass container for storage. Scenting aids can be re-used (if they have not been damaged or contaminated) and stored in sealed glass jars but must be prepared as directed prior to a trial.

Container Search Boxes. Containers must be uniform in size and cannot specify anywhere on the container for use by any shipping industry (government or private, i.e. Fed-Ex, USPS). 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. Additional pre-loaded (**prepared the day of the trial**) 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. When hosting any Handler Discrimination and/or container trials, one steward **should** be designated for the care of the odor box. Specific instructions on responsibility of this position will be found in the stewarding chapter of this rulebook.

Interior Search Items. Items that may be used in an interior search include, but are not limited to, the following: Stationary **and/or fixed** objects such as furniture including chairs, tables, kitchen counters, storage drawers, file cabinets, desks or children's toys (provided they are large enough to place a concealed hide), closets and so forth. **Search areas may be artificially built with the required number of items for each search.**

Exterior Search Items. Items that may be used in an exterior search include, but are not limited to, the following: Any such items that are also used for Interior Searches that may be found outside, additionally stationary **and/or fixed** objects such as playground equipment, picnic tables, barrels and so forth. **Search areas may be artificially built with the required number of items for each search.**

Hide Location Limits (Interior/Exterior)

Novice: No less than 8 and no more than 12 potential hide locations.

Advanced: No less than 10 and no more than 14 potential hide locations.

Superior: No less than 14 and no more than 20 total potential hide locations, including distractions.

Master: No less than 16 and no more than 24 total potential hide locations, including distractions.'

Elite: No less than 18 and no more than 26 potential hide locations, including distractions.

Distractions. All distractions must be hidden so the handler does not know where the distraction is located. The club is responsible for providing items such as food and/or toys for the Superior, Master, and Elite Element Classes. A variety of items must be available for the official to choose from. Toys, food and/or other materials used for distractions must be specifically non-toxic to dogs. (**Toxic items include but are not limited**

to chocolate, raisins, grapes, avocado, xylitol). When food is used as a distraction, the food must be contained so that the dog cannot eat it. The official will determine which items are appropriate for each element and trial.

Prohibited locations, items, articles and/or obstacles. Though a search area will mimic a real-life search environment where people and other animals may have been, the search areas may contain unidentified distractions or hazards. The club is to make every effort to use areas that are free of dangerous obstacles. Search areas should have safe footing for both the handlers and dogs. Locations that have unsafe areas such as broken glass, nails, twisted metal, or sharp protruding objects must not be used. Items, obstacles or articles that are not secure or are unstable such as, but not limited to, a bicycle or stacked drawers that are not secured, may not be used in a nosework trial.

Stopwatches and Timers. At least two stopwatches that record time to 1/100th of a second must be available for each Nosework **search area**. **Search times are used for placements** and to break ties for placements.

Vehicles. Vehicles are only required when a club is offering a Vehicle Element search. The number of vehicles required will depend on the classes being offered. Vehicle types are described within each class. To be designated as a vehicle, it must be used for transporting passengers or things by land, water, or air. Vehicles include cars, vans, motor homes, motorcycles, ATV's, golf carts, tractors or trailers that are designed to be used in combination with a vehicle described above and/or towed on the highway as well as horse drawn wagons or buggies. In addition, any mechanical devices on wheels mainly for use on highways is allowable. Vehicles and/or vehicle types are prohibited and may not be used in a vehicle search include but are not limited to moped's, motorized bicycles, traditional pedal bicycles, pony carts, carts or vehicles propelled by human power. Toy cars and/or toy trucks and/or toy tractors and/or big wheels, scooters, skateboards or children's wagons and other such toys do not meet the description of a vehicle and therefore are also prohibited from being used in a vehicle search.

Timing Searches:

- a. **Search Time: The search time will be utilized during all nosework classes from Novice through Elite and for all Handler Discrimination classes. The search time is the actual accumulated time on the stopwatch that the dog is actively searching, from the time any part of the dog/handler team crosses a start line; the handler gives a search command; or is committed to search, to each call of alert. For Novice and Advanced Nosework classes and all Handler Discrimination classes, only one timer is used that tracks both the search time and the element time. For Superior through Elite, (or all classes with more than one hide), this is the amount of time the dog is actively searching allowing for the stop and re-start of timing. This is the time that is recorded in the judge's book.**
- b. **Element Time: This is the allowed time given for each search element. It is not the actual time the dog is searching for any class that has more than one hide. The Element time is utilized in The Superior, Master and Elite levels and is responsible to time the overall Element time. The Element time is the accumulated time on the stopwatch from the time any part of the dog/handler team crosses the start line, or begins to search, to the time when the handler makes the FINAL call of alert or finish. This time is not stopped and re-started but continues to run for the entire time the dog is in the search area or until the designated allowed time is reached. Searches are not allowed to go over the designated Element Times.**

Hides. The club must provide enough objects (also known as hides) to exchange the objects/hides that have been used in each class. All objects and vehicles used for placing hides for an Interior, an Exterior or a Vehicle search may only be used once in a class, during a trial weekend, to protect the integrity of the hides for all classes.

In a Container search, blank containers may be reused if the integrity of the box has not been compromised. A fresh/new container must be used when changing hides between classes.

In a Vehicle search, blank vehicles may be reused provided they have not been used to place a hide. Once a vehicle has held a hide for any class, it may no longer be used on that weekend.

Vehicle Hide Height Restrictions: *All hides on regular vehicles (Example: personal passenger vehicles such as cars, vans, trucks, etc.) will be no more than three (3) feet high. All those designated as “other than vehicles” will be allowed the four (4) foot height in Master and the five (5) foot height in Elite (Example: tractors, trailers, golf carts, etc.).*

Section 5. Required Equipment for Handler. The following outlines the equipment that is required to be provided by and/or restricted in use by the exhibitor.

- **Collars, Harnesses and/or Leashes.** UKC exhibitors are responsible for providing a collar and a leash and/or harness for each dog entered. The dog may wear flat collars, limited slip, martingale type collars, and harnesses. 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 **search** area. Studded, “pinch” or “prong” collars of any type are prohibited in the Nosework **search** area. Leashes may be made of fabric or leather, martingale or flexi, and must be of **enough** length to safely control the dog. The official will evaluate all equipment prior to the dog’s individual performance. If the official denies a piece of equipment the exhibitor must remove this piece prior to competing. Electronic collars are not permitted on the **trial** grounds of a UKC licensed performance event.
- Gloves used in Handler Discrimination Classes. Gloves used in HD classes must be made of cotton **and may be of any color.**
- Articles used in Handler Discrimination Classes. Handlers must provide one personal item such as keys, a shoe, a sock, a shirt and so forth for this class. The personal item cannot be a glove, an under garment such as underwear, must be free of food and must fit inside a cardboard box that is **12 x 9 x 3.**
- **Clothing and Dog Accessories.** Articles of clothing that are used for protection purposes such as, but not limited to, elastic ties, small bows (as allowed within a breed’s standard) or small plain barrettes to keep the hair out of the dog’s eyes, booties, or protective clothing may be used on the dog so long as it does not interfere with the dog’s performance or affect the integrity of the hides. Any accessory or apparel that the official believes will interfere with the performance or trial must be removed prior to the dog entering the search area(s).
- Items of adornment. Items placed or attached to the dog for adornment such as, but not limited to, bandanas or jewelry are not allowed to be worn by the dog while in the Nosework **search** area. The official’s decision in the matter is final.
- Reactive Dog Bandanas. Specific colored bandanas and/or collars used to indicate a dog is reactive to other dogs, people, or its surroundings is strictly prohibited. Dogs must be able to be managed safely by their handlers using regular equipment described in this rulebook without the use of reactive dog bandanas/collars. This is the point at which dogs are acceptable on the **trial** grounds of UKC Nosework events and will have the opportunity to participate. Judges must excuse dogs showing reactive behaviors from the Nosework **search** area and may be asked to leave the **trial** grounds by the Event Committee. No refund of entry fees will be made.
- Prohibited Items. Active cell phones and/or video recording devices and/or GoPro’s are prohibited on the exhibitor and/or dog during their search.

Section 6. 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 “alert” behavior(s) are listed and clear on the score sheet for each trial.

Section 7. Handling Procedures. All dogs at a licensed Nosework trial shall be on a leash. During the Handlers' Briefing, the Judge will determine if the search must be completed with the dog on leash or if they will allow the handler to choose to complete the search off leash. If the search must be completed on leash, then all handlers must run the search on-leash without exception. The official's decision is final. Every dog must enter and leave the Nosework official **search** area on a leash. Failure to leave the official **search** 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 can wear special training clothing or equipment such as vests, hats, bait bags, etc.

Small Dogs (normally 15" and under), may be picked up by their handler during a search to investigate an inaccessible area of interest under the following conditions: (Judges may fault and/or NQ a handler if these conditions are not met).

During the Search:

- ***As a reaction to odor, the dog MUST have exhibited a noticeable, readable, physical change in behavior, a pattern of behavior that follows the dogs initial reaction to a trained odor, or a dog displaying enthusiasm and a desire to remain and trace the trained odor to source.***
- ***The handler must not touch anything within the search area and the dog CANNOT be physically placed on any item within the search area.***
- ***Dogs in Master and Elite MUST exhibit the required alert behavior noted on the entry form.***

Section 8. Repeating a Search. An official may allow an exhibitor to repeat a search 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 a search unless it is a search that is conducted in more than one area; in which case the official may choose to repeat only the part of the search in which the extraordinary circumstance occurred (i.e., the third hide in a master class in the exterior element).

Section 9. Control of the Dog. Exhibitors are always expected to keep their dog under control. The Event Committee may expel from the **trial** 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 **on the grounds, in the search area(s)**, or during the scored performance must be excused 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 **search** area and does not return to the handler during the search must not receive a passing search and may not be allowed to complete the element at the discretion of the officials. Dogs can bark and/or whine during any exercise and will not be penalized for such.

An 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 is disqualified for attacking or attempting to bite may not continue to compete at that event and must not be entered or shown at subsequent events unless reinstated by UKC. 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. In such cases, clubs and/or officials must follow the procedures as outlined in the *Official UKC Rules for All-Breed events, Misconduct and Discipline*; Chapter 1, section 13.

Dogs disqualified for attacking are immediately rendered ineligible to compete at any UKC events and the exhibitor shall forfeit all entry fees for any event where the dog has yet to compete. The exhibitor must secure the dog(s) and remain on the premises until the "Disqualified for Attacking" form has been completed in accordance with The Official Rules for All-Breed Events, Chapter 1, Section 13.

Section 10. Bait and Baiting. Exhibitors can bring conditioned reinforcers (rewards such as food and/or toys and/or clickers) into the Nosework **search** area(s). **Training vests**, bait pouches, fanny packs or other items that a dog may associate with training are also allowed. The official **may** inspect **all reinforcers at their**

discretion for approval before entrance into the **search** area. A dog that times out or false alerts at the Novice Level **only**, will be allowed to be **shown the hide location and** rewarded before leaving the ring **unless the Novice dog is excused for fouling the ring**. Approved methods of rewarding dogs are as follows:

- **Food rewards:** Food must be offered away from the source by at least two feet. It must not be offered at or over the target odor source to prevent contamination of the hide. If food is dropped within two feet of the search area, a fault will be issued for every infraction.
- **Toy rewards:** **All toys should be clean. Toys must NOT be thrown at source but may be given to the dog and must be at least two feet away from the source of odor.** A fault may be issued if the toy is given too close to the source and causes contamination, or if it moves the object that contains the target odor. Handlers that throw their toy, regardless if it is away from the source of odor will be assessed a fault.

Section 11. Search Area(s) and Trial Grounds Cleanup. Exhibitors are required to clean up after their dog if it fouls the search area or the **trial** 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 fouls the search area must not receive a passing **score and must be immediately excused from the search area.**

CHAPTER 3

SEARCH / AREA SIZE AND ELEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. Search Area Requirements. The surface for any search area must provide adequate, firm and safe footing for dog and handler. Grass surfaces must be mowed so that the grass is short. ***Search areas may be within a larger area, and/or nested and must be marked off as the designated search area(s) with traffic cones, caution tape, ring gates etc.***

- **Handler Discrimination and Container Search areas.** Handler Discrimination and Container Trials must be held in a designated area that has been marked off. The ***search area size of all Nosework classes must be at least 40 feet by 50 feet (or 2,000 sq. ft).*** The size of all Master Handler Discrimination classes must be at least 40 feet by 60 feet (or 2,400 sq. ft.). The distance between containers must be a minimum of two feet (24 inches). The 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. ***For the Superior through Elite Nosework classes, containers may be set as designated in one or more rows within a search area or in any other configuration within the designated search area. For the Master Handler Discrimination class containers are set in a scattered pattern.*** There must be a minimum of three feet (36 inches) between rows and ***at least five feet (60 inches)*** from the edge of the ringside barriers.
- **Interior Search Areas.** Small rooms such as a bathroom, kitchen, or office may be used for an Interior search. These areas must be large enough to accommodate the dog, handler and judge and allow for ease of movement within the room for the searching team. Other areas such as a warehouse or room sized environments are also acceptable. Single search areas may consist of adjoining rooms, or an area marked off in a larger interior space. Areas being used for Interior searches must be clearly identified and entry into the search areas are to be restricted.
- **Exterior Search Areas.** 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., and entry into the search areas are to be restricted.
- **Vehicle Search Areas.** Vehicle search areas may be indoors or outdoors. If indoors there must be enough room for all exhibitors and officials to move about comfortably and to accommodate all vehicles necessary. Outdoor vehicle search areas must be flat and free of debris. When searches are being conducted on asphalt or pavement, Officials should consider the surface temperature and relocate the search area should temperatures become too hot to safely conduct searches.
- **Spectators.** When at all possible, accommodations for spectators should be made available. This may be done by designating an area or gallery for a limited number of spectators. When allowed, spectators are to receive a briefing regarding how nosework trials work, of what they can and cannot do and the importance of not revealing the location of the hides. Exhibitors who are entered in the trial may not observe any class in which they are entered ***until after they have completed their run.*** Due to space limitations and/or the possibility of compromising the environment, a gallery may not be available.

Section 2. Element Requirements. For each element listed below, the odors ***are to be placed inside a closeable scent receptacle (except for boxes used for container searches),*** with air holes to allow scent to be released into the area and securely taped or fastened to a surface. Scent ***receptacles*** may be magnetic or have magnets attached to them. ***Scent aids should never come in direct contact with any surface or item that is being used within the search area.***

- **Containers:** Containers for searches will be cardboard boxes. Handlers are not permitted to touch or move any containers. Dogs ***that walk on, sit on, or move containers may be faulted if the official feels the dog is compromising the environment*** or exhibiting an aggressive alert. ***For Containers only,*** odors that are not placed into a ***scent receptacle*** must be taped securely to the side of the container. Odors that are placed inside a plastic or metal sealed container must have air holes to allow scent to be released from the primary container into the boxes.
- **Interior Building.** Searches are typically done indoors in enclosed room-sized environments. Blank

rooms / areas can only be presented in **Superior**, Master, and Elite classes. During the Handlers Briefing, the Judge will determine if the search must be completed with the dog on leash or if they will allow the handler to choose to complete the search off leash. If the search must be completed on leash, then all handlers must run the search on-leash without exception. The official's decision is final.

- **Exterior Area.** 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, area size, difficulty, and distractors.
- **Vehicles.** 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 or under 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. Dogs that tend to use their feet or paw for alerts must wear booties of some type to protect the vehicle. Handlers will be assessed a fault for any form of aggressive alert on a vehicle at the official's discretion.

CHAPTER 4

JUDGING PROCEDURES

Section 1. Handlers' Briefing. The official will hold a short briefing session prior to the handlers entering the **search area(s)**. 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, **with the exception of the Elite classes**, the boundaries of the search areas, the maximum time allowed in each element, and will explain any **area(s)** 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 2. Handler 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 **defined** search area at any time other than when they are competing. The stewards and official(s) 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. Search areas are meant to be like real life situations and as free as possible of hazardous features. 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 familiarization. Handlers may not observe other participants runs in the element(s) they are entered in on the same trial day **until after they have run if entered in the same class**.

Section 3. Alerts. Alerts are not required to be a formal obedience type response, but the behavior must be **recognizable to the official and** communicate a decision has been made on the part of the dog. If a handler calls an Alert that is incorrect, searching will end. During the Handlers' Briefing, **except for the Elite classes**, the official will announce how many hides will be in the class. **Handlers are required to call "Alert" for every hide they believe the dog has found. For Superior, Master and/or Elite classes**, when searching multiple rooms and/or areas, a handler does not have to call "Clear" when moving from room to room or area to area. Handlers in the Elite class **are required to call "Finish"** when they believe the last hide has been found. **If all hides are correctly identified and no more than one fault has been assessed, a passing search will be awarded. If a handler calls an Alert that is incorrect, searching will end. If a verbal communication is not possible due to environmental factors or a handler's disability, the handler must inform the official of the alternate confirmation, such as an obvious hand signal. Officials have complete control and final say over all matters in the search area(s).**

When an "Alert" is called but it is not clear to the official that the dog has communicated the exact location to the handler, the official may ask "Where?" The handler must be able to identify the location of the source of odor without giving the dog any additional commands and/or gestures. The handler, without touching anything, must indicate the location to the official by pointing to and describing the location within a reasonable distance of the hide. The official may use their discretion to allow the "Alert" call dependent upon if the hide is accessible or inaccessible to the dog, as well as allowing for environmental factors such as wind, temperature, and humidity.

Accessible Hides: A hide in a location where the dog can reach the source of odor with its nose.

Inaccessible Hides: A hide that is not close enough, or available, for the dog to reach the source to pinpoint the exact location of the hide. The official will be looking for the dog to get as close as possible to the hide location. The official does not need to ask "Where?", if the dog is clearly indicating the appropriate area. If the dog is unsure or has not indicated clearly, the judge should ask "Where?" For a hide that is inaccessible for all dogs regardless of their size, such as inside a file cabinet drawer or behind an object that is against a wall, the handler must point to, and describe the location that is the

closes the dog can possibly get to. The official's decision regarding if the alert is acceptable is always final.

Section 4. Automatic Non-Passing Search. During any search, the handler is not allowed to kick or intentionally move any containers from their original position or move any articles out of the way in any search. Should this happen, the team is to be assessed a non-passing search.

Section 5. Dog In White. For all classes, a qualified, non-competing dog and handler team shall perform all the exercises in the same manner that will occur during the competition. **The DIW should check the entire search area to ensure old hides have not been accidentally placed in the search area.** This is to allow the official to verify the integrity of the hides **and correct any unforeseen problems.** It is acceptable for a team that has already competed to perform the dog in white for another class, provided they will not be competing in that class.

Section 6. Certifying Official (CO). A Certifying Official is required to preside over all Nosework trials. If more than one CO will be officiating, each CO will be responsible for overseeing their own trial or portion of the trial to ensure that all aspects of the trial run smoothly and that all hides are placed properly. The decision of the CO is final.

Section 7. Start Times and Timing. Each dog/handler team should be ready and waiting on deck before their turn for each search. 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 **initially begin** behind a clearly designated Start Line. **Judging and timing begins when any part of the dog or handler cross any part of the start line. When timing Superior, Master, and Elite classes, one timer (search timer) will stop and restart the timer, while the other timer (element timer) remains timing. The search timer, when multiple hides are present, is stopped when the handler calls "Alert" or "Finish" and is re-started, when applicable, as soon as the handler gives a search command, or the team makes a commitment to begin searching again. Element** timers may give a warning when 30 seconds are remaining in all classes. They may also give a 10-second warning in the Superior, Master and Elite classes. 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.

Section 8. Maximum Element Times. 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 dog's 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" to stop the actual search time. Below are the maximum **element** times for each class.

Elements	Container	Interior	Exterior	Vehicle	Handler Discrimination	
Target Odor	Maximum times for each class (minutes)					
Novice	3	3	3	3	Novice	3
Advance	4	4	4	4	Advance	3
Superior	5	5	5	5	Excellent	3
Master	6	6	6	6	Master	4
Elite	6	6	6	6		

Section 9. Faults. A handler/dog team may receive no more than one (1) fault and still receive a passing search. Officials will not call any faults during the performance **but may inform the handler of a fault after the search is finished.** 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, intentionally blocking an odor, or calling “alert” on a hide that has already been found would all be examples of handler errors. Faults will not be given to minor infractions or poor handling such as tangling leash, mistakenly blocking odors, etc.
- **Incorrect Response.** *In the Master and Elite classes, if the dog’s alert behavior exhibited during the trial is not the same as the alert behavior indicated by the handler, then a fault may be assessed.*
- **Fringe Response.** Dog begins to alert on a lower threshold of odor but is **not able** to work it to source.
- **Aggressive Response.** *Dog’s exhibiting an aggressive alert will be faulted for each instance. Any alert behavior or action that can compromise the integrity of the hides or causes damage to the area of the hide or on the object.* Examples of aggressive alerts include but are not limited to: any action that includes scratching, pawing, pushing objects, digging, biting at the hide or object, **excessive** licking **of** the hide or object, a dog that leaves bite or scratch marks on any object in the search area, or a dog that damages any object in a search that requires the object be replaced.
- **Compromising the Search Area.** A fault may be assigned if the official determines **the dog, the handler, or 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 10. 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.”
- **Prior to Alert.** *Dog exposes scent container or distraction before the Alert is called by the handler.*
- **Eliminating in the Search area or during a search.** *A dog that fouls the search area or the surrounding search area during a search (i.e: a dog cannot foul the area while searching or be excused during the search, relieve itself and then come back and continue searching).*
- **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.** *In the Master and Elite classes, if a dog fails to alert or exhibit the pre-defined trained behavior in the known presence of the target odor on which the dog was trained. If the judge determines the dog is unable to exhibit the pre-defined indication or final response to odor when the handler calls the alert, then the mis/non-indication could be deemed as a fault or a non-qualifying search depending on the extent of the deviation from the ideal.*

- **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 official's 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 complete the search in that class. A dog that has been excused for eliminating during a search remains eligible to compete on the same day if entered in another class or element. A handler may and ask to be excused at any time during the search, for any reason. The official is to grant the request for excusal and mark the official's book as excused with the reason being handlers request.
- **Absent.** A dog will be marked absent if the dog and handler are not present when it is their time to run. If arrangements have been made due to conflicts and approved by the judge, a dog may be allowed to run later. No runs will be allowed if the class has been awarded. An official does not have to wait for any dog. The official's decision to mark the dog absent is final.

Section 11. 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 the exhibitor is disputing an official's decision.

CHAPTER 5

UKC NOSEWORK CLASSES AND SUMMARY OF TITLES

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

The "A" Section. This section is for true beginners of the sport. It is open to all exhibitors and dogs that have not earned a title in the class they are entering or an 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 *in that class*, they may no longer compete in the "A" section of that class **but may continue to compete in the "A" section of any other class they do not hold a title for**. No licensed or professional *Nosework/K9 Detection 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.

The "B" Section. Any dog or handler is eligible to compete in B section of a class. 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. Classes and Titles. UKC licensed Nosework trials need not include all classes, but if a higher class is offered, all lower classes must be offered, except for trials offering all four elements in one trial. In that case only one class may be offered. The Element titles must be earned from the A or B sections or any combination of the two for each of the Element classes. Dogs who do not meet the entry eligibility for the specific Element and/or class they are entering may have their wins invalidated.

There are four individual or specific Elements and five "target odors" separated into classes. Each element and target odor must be earned consecutively.

The four Elements are:

- Container
- Interior
- Exterior
- Vehicle

The five target odors and classes are:

- Novice (Birch Sweet Oil)
- Advanced (Aniseed Oil)
- Superior (Clove Oil)
- Master (Myrrh Oil)
- Elite (Vetiver Oil)

To earn an Element title a dog must receive two (2) passes at two different UKC licensed Nosework 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 class at the same trial, but she can enter Rex into Novice Container class and Fido into an Advanced Container class at the same trial or enter Rex into the Novice Container class and Fido into the Novice Exterior class.)

Element Titles. A title certificate will be issued by UKC for each element and class that is passed. These titles are as follows:

- Container Titles. Novice (NC), Advance (AC), Superior (SC), Master (MC), Elite (EC)
- Interior Titles. Novice (NI), Advance (AI), Superior (SI), Master (MI), Elite (EI)
- Exterior Titles. Novice (NE), Advance (AE), Superior (SE), Master (ME), Elite (EE)
- Vehicle Titles. Novice (NV), Advance (AV), Superior (SV), Master (MV), Elite (EV)

Section 4. Nosework Titles. Once a dog has earned all four elements (Containers, Interior, Exterior, and Vehicles) in each class, they will be granted Nosework titles. These titles must be earned successively.

- **Novice Nosework Title (NN).** 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. Dogs may continue to compete at the Novice Nosework level indefinitely, but only in the “B” section.
- **Advance Nosework Title (AN).** The Novice element title must be earned within that element before the dog is eligible to enter the Advanced Element class. 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. Once a dog has earned an Advance Nosework title, the dog may continue to compete at the Advance Nosework level indefinitely, but only in the “B” section.
- **Superior Nosework Title (SN).** The Advanced element title must be earned within that element before the dog is eligible to enter the Superior Element class. 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. Once a dog has earned a Superior Nosework title, the dog may continue to compete at the Superior Nosework level indefinitely, but only in the “B” section.
- **Master Nosework Title (MN).** The Superior element title must be earned within that element before the dog is eligible to enter the Master element class. 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 earned a Master Nosework title, the dog may continue to compete at the Master Nosework level indefinitely, but only in the “B” section.
- **Elite Nosework Title (EN).** The Master element title must be earned within that element before the dog is eligible to enter the Elite element class. 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 earned an Elite Nosework title, the dog may continue to compete at the Elite Nosework level indefinitely, but only in the “B” section.

Section 5. Class Champion Titles. *Dogs may begin earning legs towards the Class Champion title at any time once they have finished the Novice (NN), Advanced (AN), Superior (SN), Master (MN) and/or Elite (EN) Nosework titles. The Class Champion title must be earned from the “B” sections. Class Champion titles must be earned consecutively regardless of which level Nosework title the dog has already earned. Dogs may compete in any level they are eligible for; however, the Champion title will not be issued until the required legs are earned for each consecutive Champion level.*

Example: *An Advanced Nosework (AN) dog has one leg left to earn for the Novice Nosework Champion Title (NNCH). This dog may also earn legs in any other level “B” class it is eligible for (all Advanced B elements and/or all Superior A Elements), however the NNCH title will not be issued until the required legs for the NNCH title are earned.*

Class Champion titles are awarded once three (3) qualifying legs are earned in each element. For example, to earn the NNCH title requires 3 qualifying legs in Novice Container, Novice Interior, Novice Exterior and Novice Vehicle for a total of 12 qualifying legs

- **Novice Champion (NNCH).** The Novice Nosework (NN) title must be earned before the dog is eligible to earn legs toward the NNCH. To earn the NNCH title, a dog must earn 3 qualifying legs in the Novice B section for each element. The qualifying legs for each element do not have to be earned at the same trial.

- Advanced Champion (ACH). The Advance Nosework (AN) title must be earned before the dog is eligible to earn legs toward the ACH. To earn the ACH title, a dog must earn 3 qualifying legs in the Advanced B section for each element. The qualifying legs for each element do not have to be earned at the same trial.
- Superior Champion (SCH). The Superior Nosework (SN) title must be earned before the dog is eligible to earn legs toward the SCH. To earn the SCH title, a dog must earn 3 qualifying legs in the Superior B section for each element. The qualifying legs for each element do not have to be earned at the same trial.
- Master Champion (MCH). The Master Nosework (MN) title must be earned before the dog is eligible to earn legs toward the MCH. To earn the MCH title, a dog must earn 3 qualifying legs in the Master B section for each element. The qualifying legs for each element do not have to be earned at the same trial.
- Elite Champion (ECH). The Elite Nosework (EN) title must be earned before the dog is eligible to earn legs toward the ECH. To earn the ECH title, a dog must earn 3 qualifying legs in the Elite B section for each element. The qualifying legs for each element do not have to be earned at the same trial.
- Nosework Champion (NWCH). Once a dog has earned all five Class Champion titles, the dog will be considered a Nosework Champion.

Section 6. Class Grand Champion Titles. Once a dog has completed a Class Champion title, they may start earning legs towards the Class Grand Champion Title. The Class Grand Champion title must be earned from the “B” sections. The dog does not have to be a Nosework Champion to earn legs toward a Class Grand Champion title. Class Grand Champion titles are awarded once five (5) qualifying legs are earned in each element. For example, to earn the NNGC title requires 5 qualifying legs in Novice Container, Novice Interior, Novice Exterior and Novice Vehicle for a total of 20 qualifying legs.

- Novice Grand Champion (NGC). A dog must have earned the NCH title before being eligible to earn legs towards the NGC title. To earn the NGC title a dog must earn 5 qualifying legs in the B section for each element at the Novice level. The qualifying legs for each element do not have to be earned at the same trial.
- Advance Grand Champion (AGC). A dog must have earned the ACH title before being eligible to earn legs towards the AGC title. To earn the AGC title a dog must earn 5 qualifying legs in the B section for each element at the Advance level. The qualifying legs for each element do not have to be earned at the same trial.
- Superior Grand Champion (SNGC). A dog must have earned the SCH title before being eligible to earn legs towards the SNGC title. To earn the SNGC title a dog must earn 5 qualifying legs in the B section for each element at the Superior level. The qualifying legs for each element do not have to be earned at the same trial.
- Master Grand Champion (MGC). A dog must have earned the MCH title before being eligible to earn legs towards the MGC title. To earn the MGC title a dog must earn 5 qualifying legs in the B section for each element at the Master level. The qualifying legs for each element do not have to be earned at the same trial.
- Elite Grand Champion (EGC). A dog must have earned the ECH title before being eligible to earn legs towards the EGC title. To earn the EGC title a dog must earn 5 qualifying legs in the B section for each element at the Elite level. The qualifying legs for each element do not have to be earned at the same trial.
- Nosework Grand Champion (NWGC). Once a dog has earned all five element Grand Champion titles, the dog will be considered a Nosework Grand Champion.

CHAPTER 6

NOVICE ELEMENT TITLE REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. General Rules. Novice 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 earned in any 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 Element class. *No distractions are allowed at this level.*

Section 2. Target Odor & Hides. Only one odor, Birch will be used in the Novice Element classes. No hides may be higher than two (2) feet.

Section 3. Alerts. *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 a specific behavior, however, a change in behavior should be recognizable to the official and communicate a decision has been made on the part of the dog. The handler must call an alert when they recognize the dogs change in behavior indicating the dog has found the odor. After calling the Alert, the handler may not cue/re-cue the dog to search if asked “where.” After the judge has confirmed the alert, the handler may reward the dog. An Alert behavior does not need to be on the entry form in this class.*

Section 4. Novice 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 **designated search**, 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) all facing the same direction and 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. The front bumper must be utilized for the hide.

Section 5. Scoring, Faults and Element 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. The maximum time allowance for the Novice Element classes is three (3) 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. **A fault** will affect placements in the competition. Placements are ranked by faults and then time. A team **without a fault** will place above a team with **a fault** regardless of their running time.

Non-Qualifying.

- If the search goes over the maximum time allowed for the search.
- If the handler stops the search.
- If **more than one fault has** been assessed.
- If the handler calls an incorrect alert.
- In a container search, if the handler intentionally kicks a box out of the line of containers.

Faults. Only one fault is allowed per search. Descriptions of faults for infractions and incorrect calls are outlined elsewhere in the rulebook.

- A fault will be assessed for each handling error.
- ***Giving the dog any additional command and/or gesture after the “Alert” call if asked “Where?”***
- Aggressive alerts will be assessed a fault for each incident.

CHAPTER 7

ADVANCED ELEMENT TITLE REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. General Rules. Advanced 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 earned in any 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 Element class. *No distractions are allowed at this level.*

Section 2. Target Odor & Hides. Only one odor, Anise will be used in the Advanced Element classes. No hides may be higher than two (2) feet.

Section 3. Alerts. *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 a specific behavior, however, a change in behavior must be recognizable to the official and communicate a decision has been made on the part of the dog. The handler must call an alert when they recognize the dogs change in behavior indicating the dog has found the odor. After calling the Alert, the handler may not cue/re-cue the dog to search if asked “where.” After the judge has confirmed the alert, the handler may reward the dog. An Alert behavior does not need to be on the entry form in this class.*

Section 4. Advanced 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 **designated search** 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) all facing the same direction and 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. Any area on the vehicles may be utilized for the hide.

Section 5. Scoring, Faults and Element 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. The maximum time allowance for the Advanced Element classes is four (4) minutes. Each search requires that the handler **call** “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.

Non-Qualifying.

- If the search goes over the maximum time allowed for the search.
- If the handler stops the search.
- If **more than one fault has been** assessed.
- If the handler calls an alert at incorrect source.
- In a container search, if the handler intentionally kicks a box out of the line of containers.

Faults. Only one fault is allowed per search. Descriptions of faults for infractions and incorrect calls are outlined elsewhere in the rulebook.

- A fault will be assessed for each handling error.
- ***Giving the dog any additional command and/or gesture after the “Alert” call if asked “Where?”***
- Aggressive alerts will be assessed a fault for each incident.

CHAPTER 8 SUPERIOR ELEMENT TITLE REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. General Rules. Superior Element titles are achieved in each element individually after receiving two legs for each element. Titles available in this class are Containers (SC), Exterior (SE), Interior (SI), and Vehicle (SV). Elements do not have to be earned in any order. If all four elements are attained at this level, the dog will be granted an SN title. There will be two hides in each Superior Element class. One distraction is required in the class.

Section 2. Target Odor & Hides. Two odors will be used for the Superior element class. Clove is a required odor for this class. The other 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 in the same hide. No hides may be higher than three (3) feet.

Section 3. Alerts. *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 a specific behavior, however, a change in behavior must be recognizable to the official and communicate a decision has been made on the part of the dog. The handler must call an alert when they recognize the dogs change in behavior indicating the dog has found the odor. After calling the Alert, the handler may not cue/re-cue the dog to continue searching until the judge has confirmed the call. After the judge has confirmed the alert, the handler may reward the dog and/or directly continue the search for the second hide. An Alert behavior does not need to be on the entry form in this class, however the handler must be able to articulate three possible behaviors or chains of behaviors if asked by the official prior to searching.*

Section 4. Distractions. One distraction is required in this class. Any type of food or toy **as described in Chapter 2, Section 4** is considered a distraction. Distractions are described within their specific elements.

Section 5. Superior 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 no more than 2 rows and evenly spaced, in **the designated search** area, and on the floor or ground. The distraction must not be immediately next to a hide.
- 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. The distraction can be in either area but **may only be combined with one hide or in a blank area. There can either be two hides in one room and a distraction in the blank area, or one hide in each room with the distraction in one of those areas, but not immediately next to the hide.** 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. Handlers may move back and forth between rooms. The **Element timer** will remain running when changing rooms.
- 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 four vehicles. Three of the vehicles must be automobiles. The fourth vehicle

may be something other than an automobile but must meet the specifications outlined in this rulebook. 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, with no two hides on the same vehicle. 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, Faults and *Element* 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. The maximum time allowance for the Superior Element classes is five (5) minutes. Each search requires that the handler ***call “Alert” for each hide that is found. The Element time will start when any part of the dog or handler cross the start line and will stop when the handler calls the final alert or when the allotted search time is passed. The Search timer will start with the Element time and will start and stop the timing for each of the two searches. When the handler calls alert, the search timer stops. If the handler is correct, timing will re-start as soon as the handler gives a command and/or signals to begin searching or when the team makes a commitment to begin searching. The search times from each hide will be recorded as the dog’s actual search time. The search time stopwatch does not have to be cleared between searches, it can simply be stopped and restarted. This is the time that is recorded in the judge’s book as the actual search time.*** No dog and handler team may exceed the maximum element time as posted at the trial.

Non-Qualifying.

- If the search goes over the maximum time allowed for the search.
- If the handler stops the search.
- If ***more than one fault has*** been assessed.
- If the handler calls an alert at incorrect source.
- The dog does not find all the hides.
- The dog plays with or picks up the distraction.
- In a container search, if the handler intentionally kicks a box out of the line of containers.

Faults. Only one fault is allowed per search. Descriptions of faults for infractions and incorrect calls are outlined elsewhere in the rulebook.

- A fault will be assessed for each handling error.
- ***Giving the dog any additional command and/or gesture after the “Alert” call if asked “Where?”***
- Aggressive alerts will be assessed a fault for each incident.

CHAPTER 9

MASTER ELEMENT TITLE REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. General Rules. Master 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 earned in any order. If all four elements are attained at this level, the dog will be granted a MN title. There must be three hides in each Master Element class.

Section 2. Target Odor & Hides. Three odors will be used in the Master Element class. Myrrh is a required odor for this level. The other eligible odors that may be used are: Birch, Anise, and Clove. Odors must be used separately to make up the three hides. No hide can consist of more than one odor. No hides may be higher than four (4) feet.

Section 3. Alerts. *The alert behavior must be stated on the entry form and score sheet prior to the start of the element. It is acceptable to list up to three possible and specific behaviors (or chain of behaviors) that must be clearly recognized and concise. The official may ask for clarification from the handler on the response prior to the beginning of the element. Dogs must locate all hides and handlers will be responsible for calling all alerts.*

At this level, when alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting at least one of the pre-defined indications or final responses to the odor. If the dog is not exhibiting at least one of the behaviors, or the judge determines the dog is unable to exhibit the pre-defined indication or final response to odor, when the handler calls alert, then it could be deemed as a fault or a non-qualifying search depending on the extent of the deviation from the ideal.

After calling the alert, the handler may not cue/re-cue the dog to continue searching until the judge has confirmed the call. After the judge has confirmed the alert, the handler may reward the dog and/or directly continue the search in the case of multiple hides. (Examples of behaviors - sits; downs; stands; sits or downs; nose point then looks at handler; freezes at sources; nose to source, freezes, looks at hander, etc.).

Section 4. Distractions & Hides. *One distraction* is required at this level in each element. Any type of food or toy is considered a distraction. Distractions *as described in Chapter 2, Section 4* are described within the specific elements for each class.

Section 5. Master 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 designated area** and in any arrangement on the floor or ground. Each hide must be placed in a separate container. Boxes containing target odors and/or distractions may be placed adjacent to each other.
- 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 sq. feet and a maximum of 3000 sq. 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. Odors must be used separately to make up the hides; odors cannot be combined on the same item. No hide may be higher than four (4) feet. Distractions and/or target odors may be placed adjacent to each other.
- c.) **Master Interior – (MI)** A Master 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 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 at the same place. No hides may be higher than four (4) feet. Distractions and/or target odors may be placed adjacent to each other.

Hides will be as follows:

1. All hides in one area with no distraction in that area, and one distraction in a blank area (an area without a hide), or
2. All hides and one distraction in one area with no hides or distraction 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) 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 five vehicles. Two vehicles may be other than an automobile but must meet the specifications in this rulebook. 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 only one hide may be on a vehicle.

Master level hides on any regular vehicle (Example: personal passenger vehicles such as cars, vans, trucks) will be no more than three (3) feet. For all those designated as “other than vehicle,” the normal four (4) foot Master level height can be used. (Examples: tractors, trailers, golf carts, etc.). The distraction may be placed on the same vehicle as the hide but cannot be on the same side as the hide. The distraction may also be placed on a vehicle next to the vehicle with the hide.

Section 6. Scoring, Faults and Element 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. The maximum time allowance for the Master Element classes is six (6) minutes. Each search requires that **the handler calls “alert” for each hide that is found. The Element time will start when any part of the dog or handler cross the start line and will stop when the handler calls the final alert or when the allotted search time is passed. The Search timer will start with the Element time and will start and stop the timing for each of the two searches. When the handler calls alert, the search timer stops. If the handler is correct, timing will re-start as soon as the handler gives a command and/or signals to begin searching or when the team makes a commitment to begin searching. The search times from each hide will be recorded as the dog’s actual search time. The search time stopwatch does not have to be cleared between searches, it can simply be stopped and re-started. This is the time that is recorded in the judge’s book as the actual search time.** No dog and handler team may exceed the maximum element time as posted at the trial.

Non-Qualifying.

- If the search goes over the maximum time allowed for the search.
- If the handler stops the search.
- If **more than one fault has** been assessed.
- If the handler calls an alert at incorrect source.
- The dog does not find all the hides.
- The dog plays with or picks up the distraction.
- The dog alerts at the correct odor source but does not display the stated or pre-defined alert **if the judge has not determined the dog, for some reason, was unable to exhibit the pre-defined indication or final response to odor.**
- In a container search, if the handler intentionally kicks a box out of the line of containers.

Faults. Only one fault is allowed per search. Descriptions of faults for infractions and incorrect calls are outlined elsewhere in the rulebook.

- A fault will be assessed for each handling error.
- **Giving the dog any additional command and/or gesture after the “Alert” call if asked “Where?”**
- Aggressive alerts will be assessed a fault for each incident

CHAPTER 10

ELITE ELEMENT TITLE REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. General Rules. Elite 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 earned in any order. If all four elements are attained at this level, the dog will be granted an EN title. There will be **one** to four hides in each Elite Element class.

Section 2. Target Odor & Hides. All five odors may be used in the Elite Element classes. Vetiver is a required odor for this level. The other odors that may be used are: Birch, Anise, Clove, and Myrrh. Odors must be used separately to make up the **one**, two, three or four hides. **Handlers will not be informed of the number of hides in any Elite class.** No hide can consist of more than one odor. No hides may be higher than five (5) feet.

Section 3. Alerts. The Alert must be stated on **the entry form** and 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 may be no more than two (2) behaviors (or chain of behaviors) that must be clearly recognized and concise. Dogs must locate all hides and handlers will be responsible for calling all alerts. Each search requires that the handler state “alert” and/or “finish.” An “alert” call is required for each hide that is found, and a “finish” call is required when the handler believes all hides have been found.**

At this level, when alerts are called, the dog must be exhibiting at least one of the pre-defined indications or final responses to the odor. If the dog is not exhibiting at least one of the behaviors, or the judge determines the dog is unable to exhibit the pre-defined indication or final response to odor, when the handler calls alert, then it could be deemed as a fault or a non-qualifying search depending on the extent of the deviation from the ideal.

After calling the alert, the handler may not cue/re-cue the dog to continue searching until the judge has confirmed the call. After the judge has confirmed the alert, the handler may reward the dog and/or directly continue the search in the case of multiple hides.

(Examples of behaviors - sits; downs; stands; sits or downs; nose point then looks at handler; freezes at sources then looks at handler, etc.).

Section 4. Distractions & Hides. Two distractions are required at this level in each element. Any type of food or toy is considered a distraction **as described in Chapter 2, Section 4** Distractions are described within the specific elements for each class.

Section 5. Elite 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 the designated search area**, and in any arrangement on the floor or ground. 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 sq. feet and a maximum of 4000 sq. feet. 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,” or “finish”. 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 and cannot be combined at the same place. Hides will be as follows:

1. The smaller space can contain no more than two items (hides and/or distractions) in each space.
2. The larger two spaces may contain no 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 six vehicles. Two vehicles may be other than an automobile but must meet the specifications outlined in this rulebook. 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, **Elite level hides on any regular vehicle (i.e. personal passenger vehicles such as cars, vans, trucks) will be no more than three (3) feet. For all those designated as “other than vehicle,” the normal five (5) foot Elite level height can be used. (i.e. tractors, trailers, golf carts, etc.).** Only one hide may be on any vehicle. One distraction may be placed on the same vehicle as the hide but cannot be on the same side as the hide. A distraction may also be placed on a vehicle next to the vehicle with the hide.

Section 6. Scoring, Faults 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. The maximum time allowance for the Elite Element classes is six (6) minutes. Each search requires that the handler ***calls “alert” for each hide that is found and “finish” when the handler believes no other hides remain in the search area(s). The actual Element time will start when any part of the dog or handler cross the start line and will stop when the handler calls the final “alert,” when the handler calls “finish,” or when the allotted time has passed. The Search timer will start with the Element timer and will stop and restart the timing for each of the one, two, three, or four searches. When the handler calls the first alert, the search timer stops. If the handler is correct, timing will restart as soon as the handler gives a command and/or signal to begin searching or when the team makes a commitment to begin searching. The search times for each hide will be recorded as the dog’s actual search time. The search time stopwatch does not have to be cleared between runs, it can simply be stopped and restarted. This is the time that is recorded in the judge’s book as the actual search time.*** No dog and handler team may exceed the maximum element time as posted at the trial.

Non-Qualifying.

- If the search goes over the maximum time allowed for the search.
- If the handler stops the search.
- If ***more than one fault has*** been assessed.
- If the handler calls an alert at incorrect source.
- The dog does not find all the hides.
- The dog plays with or picks up the distraction.
- The dog alerts at the correct odor source but does not display the stated or pre-defined alert ***if the judge has not determined the do, for some reason was unable to exhibit the pre-defined indication or final response to odor.***
- In a container search, if the handler intentionally kicks a box out of the line of containers.

Faults. Only one fault is allowed per search. Descriptions of faults for infractions and incorrect calls are outlined elsewhere in the rulebook.

- A fault will be assessed for each handling error.
- ***Giving the dog any additional command and/or gesture after the “Alert” call if asked “Where?”***
- Aggressive alerts will be assessed a fault for each incident

CHAPTER 11

HANDLER DISCRIMINATION CLASSES TITLES AND REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. General Rules. The primary purpose of Handler Discrimination is to demonstrate the dog's ability to find the handler's scented article in a specific container. Depending upon the level, the article may be in a closed or open container. Handler Discrimination titles are achieved after receiving three legs in each level. Titles available are: Novice Handler Discrimination (NHD), Advanced Handler Discrimination (AHD), Excellent Handler Discrimination (EHD) and Master Handler Discrimination (MHD). Dogs must always remain on leash for the Novice, Advance and Excellent Handler Discrimination (HD) classes.

Section 2. Nosework Handler Discrimination Titles. This Handler Discrimination titles must be earned from the A or B sections or any combination of the two for each of the Handler Discrimination classes. There are four Handler Discrimination classes and each class must be earned successively. The four classes are:

- **Novice (NHD).** 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 ***the search*** 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.
- **Advanced (AHD).** 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 ***the search*** 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.
- **Excellent (EHD).** 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 ***the search*** 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.
- **Master (MHD).** 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 ***finding and alerting at the correct location of the hide***, 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 3. Handler Discrimination Titles of Distinction. Once a dog has earned the Excellent Handler Discrimination title (EHD) or the Master Handler Discrimination Title (MHD), legs towards the Excellent or Master HD Excellent titles, Champion titles or Grand Champion titles may be earned as outlined below.

- Excellent Handler Discrimination Supreme title. Any dog that has earned the Excellent Handler Discrimination title (EHD) may earn legs toward the Excellent Handler Discrimination Supreme (EHDS) title beginning at the next Handler Discrimination trial following the completion of the requirements of the EHD title. To earn an Excellent Handler Discrimination Supreme title, a dog must earn 10 qualifying searches from the "B" section of the Handler Discrimination Excellent class. There shall be no restriction on the number of judges required to earn this title. The EHDS title will have numeric designations to signify the number of times the title has been completed, for example EHDS2, EHDS3, etc.
- Master Handler Discrimination Excellent title. Any dog that has earned the Master Handler Discrimination title (MHD) may earn legs toward the Master Handler Discrimination Excellent (MHDX) title beginning at the next Handler Discrimination trial following the completion of the requirements of the MHD title. To earn a Master Handler Discrimination Excellent title, a dog must earn 10 qualifying searches from the "B" section of the Handler Discrimination Master class. There shall be no restriction on the number of judges required to earn this title. The MHDX title will have numeric designations to signify the number of times the title has been completed, for example MHDX2, MHDX3, etc.
- Handler Discrimination Champion Title (HDCH). Any dog that has earned the Master Handler Discrimination (MHD) title may start earning legs toward the Handler Discrimination Champion (HDCH) title. To earn the Handler Discrimination Champion title, a dog must ***earn***:
 - Combined Wins. At 10 different UKC Licensed Handler Discrimination trials earn 10 qualifying searches in each of the Handler Discrimination Excellent B and Master B classes in the same trial.

- Handler Discrimination Grand Champion Title (HDGC). Any dog that has earned the Handler Discrimination Champion (HDCH) title may start earning legs toward the Handler Discrimination Grand Champion (HDGC) title. To earn the Handler Discrimination Grand Champion title, a dog must earn;
 - Combined Wins. At 15 different UKC Licensed Handler Discrimination trials earn 15 qualifying searches in each of the Handler Discrimination Excellent B and Master B classes in the same trial.

Section 4. Handler Discrimination Alerts. *Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. A formal and final response is not required for Novice, Advanced, or Excellent, however, a change in behavior must be recognizable to the official and communicate a decision has been made on the part of the dog. An Alert behavior does not need to be on the entry form for these classes.*

Master Handler Discrimination Alerts. *The alert must be stated on the entry form and score sheet. Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. The dog must alert to the handler's article with either a "sit" or a "down," as required for this class level.*

Section 5. Faults. A handler/dog team may receive no more than one (1) fault and still receive a passing leg. Faults may be assessed assigned as described in Chapter 4 – Judging Procedures. Additional faults may apply as outlined in the specific class.

Section 6. Novice Handler Discrimination: (NHD). The search will be done with boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the **designated search area**, and on the floor or ground. There will be 12 boxes set up in the ring prior to the handler entering the search area. Boxes must be uniform in size and be at least 24 inches apart from one another. No intentional distractions are allowed at this level. There will be only one glove in this class.

The handler is to present one clean glove to the official at a designated time. The glove can be previously scented by the owner. The handler will arrive at the ring with one scented glove and will turn away from the line of boxes at the 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 place the** box in the line with the other containers. **The steward** will collect the empty box and place it at the table until the search is finished. **The same position in line will be used for all target hides, to ensure equal search distance to the target odor and fairness for placements.**

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. **The handler must call the alert when they recognized the dog has found their scent. If correctly identified, a pass will be awarded. Handlers in Handler Discrimination may re-cue their dog during the search by allowing the dog to sniff their hand, and only their hand, once the search has begun. Handlers may not carry additional scented items with them for the dog to be re-cued.**

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 always see 12 boxes in the ring. One box will be needed for each exhibitor in addition to the required number of boxes for this class. Additional boxes should be available for replacement. 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 7. Advanced Handler Discrimination: (AHD). The search will be done with boxes set in a straight line down the middle of the **designated search area**, and on the floor or ground. There will be 12 boxes set up in the ring prior to the handler entering the search area. Boxes must be uniform in size and be at least 24 inches apart from one another. 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 is to present one scented glove to the official at a designated time. ***The handler will arrive at the ring with one scented glove and will turn away from the line of boxes at the designated place. With the handler turned away, the steward will remove the empty box from the line-up and place it at the table until the search is finished. 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 place the box in the empty space and in line with the other containers. The same position in line will be used for all target hides to ensure equal search distance to target odor and fairness for placement.***

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. Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. If the alert is correctly identified, a pass will be awarded. If a handler calls an Alert that is incorrect searching will end. ***Handlers in Handler Discrimination may re-cue their dog during the search by allowing the dog to sniff their hand, and only their hand, once the search has begun. Handlers may not carry additional scented items with them for the dog to be re-cued.***

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 always see 12 boxes in the ring. One box will be needed for each exhibitor in addition to the required number of boxes for this class. Additional boxes should be available for replacement. 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 8. Excellent level: (EHD) Handlers will compete in groups of 12. Prior to the beginning of the class, all handlers in the group that are 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. ***Handlers will remove their scented glove and place it inside the box alongside, and with, the numbered bag, so it is clearly visible.*** If there are not 12 handlers, the stewards and/or officials will scent the remaining gloves and put them in boxes. The handlers will then leave the area.

The steward will randomly mark the boxes 1 through 12. The steward, nor anyone else, may not touch either the scented glove or the plastic bag. The steward ***or official*** will mark which box belongs to which handler on the handler’s score sheet for the official and then place the closed boxes in a row, in the ***search area***, and on the floor or ground. Boxes must be uniform in size and be at least 24 inches apart from one another. ***Due to random marking and placement of boxes, the boxes are not to be moved or replaced within each group so as not to confuse which box belongs to which handler. Once the group of boxes are set, the only reason for a steward or official to move a box is to re-set it in line if needed.***

Handlers will be called to the ***search area in order***, and upon entering ***the search area will go to the designated area of the start line. They can be facing the row of boxes.*** 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 ***searching.*** ***Handlers will be responsible for calling the alert. If correctly identified, a pass will be awarded. If a handler calls an incorrect alert, searching will end. Handlers in Handler Discrimination may re-cue their dog during the search by allowing the dog to sniff their hand, and only their hand, once the search has begun. Handlers may not carry additional scented items with them for the dog to be re-cued.***

Section 9. Scoring, Faults and Time for the Novice, Advance and Excellent levels. 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, Advanced or 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.

Non-Qualifying.

- If the search goes over the maximum time allowed for the search.
- If the handler stops the search.
- If **more than one fault has been** assessed.
- If the handler calls an incorrect alert.
- If the handler intentionally kicks a box out of the line of containers.

Faults. Only one fault is allowed per search. Descriptions of faults for infractions and incorrect calls are outlined elsewhere in the rulebook.

- A fault will be assessed for each handling error.
- **Giving the dog any additional command and/or gesture after the “Alert” call if asked “Where?”**
- Aggressive alerts will be assessed a fault for each incident.

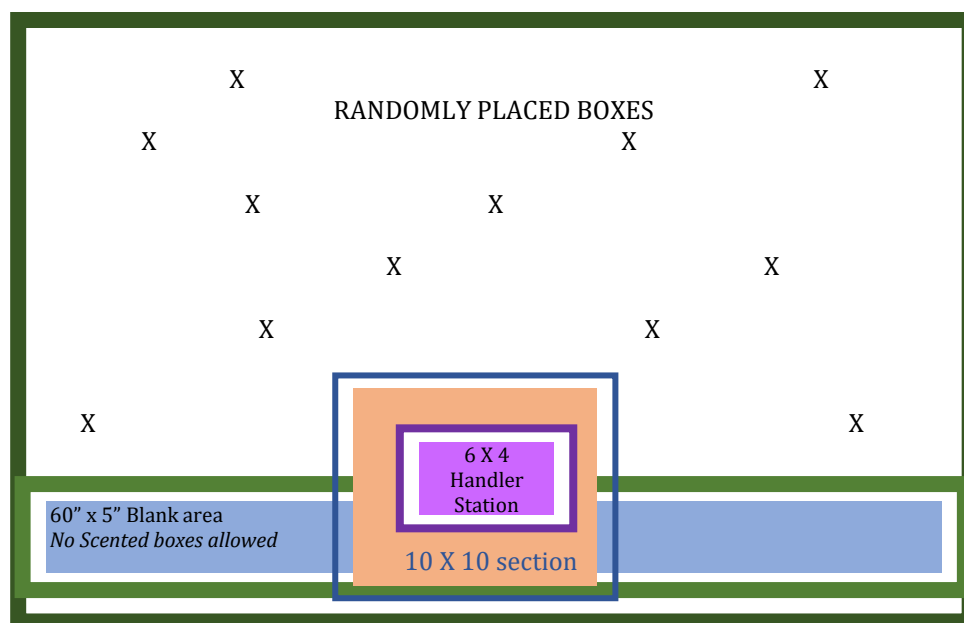
Section 10. Master level: (MHD) class may be held either inside or outside. A larger ring/**search** area is preferred, however no **search** area smaller than the minimum **size (40 x 60 or 2,400 sq. ft)** may be used for this class.

Pre-judging. This class will be judged in sections that will have up to twelve (12) handlers per section.

- All 12 handlers will bring one personal item such as keys, a shoe, a sock, a shirt and so forth, to the prep area 15 minutes prior to the beginning of their section. The personal item cannot be a glove, must be free of food and must fit inside a cardboard box that is 12 x 9 x 3.
- The boxes will be numbered with the exhibitor’s armband number when the handler places their item into the box. Running order will be determined by armband number (low to high or high to low) The bottom of the box will be taped, and the top flaps removed so that they cannot be shut. If there are not 12 handlers, items scented by the judge and/or steward may be used to make up the 12 items. In this case, these items may be gloves such as those used in the lower handler discrimination classes.
- If it is necessary to adjust any of the handler’s personal items, the steward must use tongs or some other type of instrument in order not to transfer their scent onto the item. The steward will then bring the boxes to the ring and place them in **the search area as directed** by the judge. The judge will decide where the boxes will be placed in within the **search area**.

Search area set-up. Prior to the search, the **search area** must be set and marked as follows.

- Using the long side of the **search area**, there must be a designated **portion** which is to be marked off with tape, chalk or marking paint (depending upon if the search area is inside or outside), that runs the entire length of the **search area** and is at least 5 feet from the ring/area barrier This is considered the blank (unoccupied) area.
- Another area that measures 10 feet by 10 feet must be marked off that includes the 5-foot section of the blank area, which will be located approximately in the center of the long side of the ring.
- Within this area there will be a section that measures 6 feet by 4 feet. This is the handler’s station and starting area where the working handler will be positioned.
- The remaining handlers in that section can watch all the searches within their section. They must stand quietly outside of the ring area and they may not enter the handler’s station prior to their turn. No dog other than the working dog may be **in the actual search area**. (See image; not to scale)



Judging procedure. The blank area directly behind the handler's station (**60** feet long by 5 feet wide) and the designated square (10 feet by 10 feet) that surrounds the handler's station as well as the handler's station (6 feet by 4 feet), will not contain any search items.

- All 12 boxes containing the individual handler's items for that section must be randomly placed at least 10 feet in all directions from the designated area where the handler will stand. Placement of the individual boxes must be arranged in a scattered pattern and must be at least six feet away from any other item including the edges of any side of the ring. All boxes must be placed prior to the handler entering the ring. It is the responsibility for each handler to be ready when it is their turn to run.
- The working handler and dog will enter the ring and go to the designated Handler's station. Once sent, the handler may move about but may not step outside of this designated marked area at any time until the dog has returned to the handler and the exercise is finished.
 - The handler will remove the leash and when given the send command from the judge, the handler will send the dog using a verbal command only. Handlers may make a slight motion with a hand or arm to get the dog to begin, but clear hand signals are not allowed.
 - **The handler is allowed to reach down and allow the dog to sniff their hand prior to sending the dog to search.**
 - **In this class**, the handler cannot direct the dog to the item once the dog is searching **or use additional commands and/or praise while the dog is working.**
 - If the dog is having trouble, the handler may recall the dog to the handler's station and resend the dog without penalty, but the time will not stop.
- The dog must indicate it has found the handler's item by either doing a sit or down at the item before the handler may call an alert. **Timing will stop when the handler calls "Alert."** The dog must remain at the indicated box for a minimum **of three (3) seconds**. Should the dog change position from a sit to a down or a down to a sit, the judge shall assess a fault and will restart the count with the dog in the new position. **If the dog changes position a second time, the team will receive a non-qualifying score. The handler must not command and/or signal the dog to sit, down, or stay during any part of this exercise.** Upon completing the count, the judge will command the handler to recall his dog. The handler may reward the dog upon its return at the handler's station. When food rewards are used, any food or crumbs that fall to the floor/ground will be assessed a fault for each occurrence.
- If any boxes are moved by the dog during the search, the steward and/or official will re-position the box(s) so that the box is in the original place.

Scoring, Faults and Time for Master Level. Time allowed for the search is four (4) minutes. Timing stops when the handler calls alert. The dog shall then remain at the correct box in a sit or down position **for at least three (3)** consecutive seconds. The judge's count shall start once the handler calls alert and the dog is in the correct position. If the dog breaks position, the count will stop and start over again when the dog is back in one of the correct positions. **The official shall count down, "three," "two," "one," "release." If the dog does not take a correct position within ten (10) seconds, it will be scored as a non-qualifying performance.** The dog is allowed 1 change of position before receiving a non-qualifying score. Placements are based upon the fastest **search** time and are awarded first to dogs with no faults followed by any dog with one fault. Each leg is based on a pass or fail. A pass is considered correctly calling the alert when the dog finds the handler's item, the dog exhibiting either a sit or a down and staying with the handler's item in the sit or down position for **three (3) seconds**, promptly returning to the handler when called and having no more than one assessed fault.

Non-Qualifying.

- If **more than one fault has been** assessed.
- If the handler steps outside of the designated area for any reason during the search, they will receive a non-qualifying score.
- If the dog does not sit or down at the "correct" handler's box, they will receive a non-qualifying score.
- If the dog does not remain in **a sit or down position** for a minimum of **3** seconds after the handler calls alert, they will receive a non-qualifying score. **(1 change of position allowed).**
- If the handler commands **and/or signals** the dog to sit or down, **or stay** at the correct handler's box, they will receive a non-qualifying score.
- If the dog sits or downs at the incorrect box and the handler calls the alert, the team will receive a non-qualifying score.
- If the dog **sits, downs, or stands** at the incorrect box and does not resume searching on its own and finds the correct item before time runs out, they will receive a non-qualifying score.
- If the dog picks up the correct item and returns to the handler with the item, they will receive a non-qualifying score.
- If the dog picks up an incorrect item and returns to the handler with that item, they will receive a non-qualifying score.
- If the dog paws at, puts a paw on, mouths, or picks up any item or box that is not their handler's item, they will receive a non-qualifying score.

Faults. Only one fault is allowed per search.

- If the item belongs to their handler and they paw, mouth, or pick up the item, it will be a fault.
- If the dog changes position during the **3**-second stabilization period, they will be assessed a fault for each position change.

CHAPTER 12

NOSEWORK EVENT RULES AND STEWARDING RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. Dog Temperament and Behavior. Owners of UKC registered dogs are responsible for the behavior of their dogs at UKC events. Dogs participating in UKC events are expected to have stable temperaments appropriate to their breeds and to be sufficiently well trained so that no dog's behavior interferes with the official's ability to evaluate the dog or its performance.

Owners or designated handlers are always expected to ensure that their dogs present no threat to persons or other dogs attending the event. An official must excuse a dog when the dog's behavior significantly interferes with the judge's ability to evaluate the dog or to evaluate the dogs of other exhibitors. The official must mark the dog "Excused" in the official's book and state the reason for the excusal.

An official must excuse a dog when the dog's demeanor gives the official reason to believe that the dog may not be safely examined or appears to be a serious threat to other dogs in the ring. The official must mark the dog "Excused" in the official's book and state the reason for the excusal.

Reactive dogs. Specific-colored bandanas and/or collars used to indicate a dog is reactive to other dogs, people or its surroundings is strictly prohibited. Dogs showing such behavior are to be excused and, may be asked to leave the *trial* grounds by the Event Committee. The official must mark the dog "Excused" in the official's book and state the reason for the excusal. The official's decision on such matters is final.

Section 2. Official and Steward Position Responsibilities. Trials should be set up so that the integrity of the search and its immediate area are not compromised. Besides the Event Committee, several other workers are necessary to run a successful event. Ideally, the following positions should only be assigned to an official or a worker who is well versed in the specific task.

- Certifying Official (CO). Each CO will officiate and place their own hides when assigned to all classes of a nosework trial. All calls will be determined by the official and will be final.
- Gate Steward. The duty of the Gate Steward is to work closely with the Table Steward and to maintain the running order of the exhibitors. They ensure that the next dog in sequence is on-deck and ready when it is their turn to enter the search area and to advise the Table Steward of any changes in sequential order.
- Table Steward. The Table Steward's duties include but are not limited to; preparing score sheets for the official, verify score sheets for accuracy, record scores and running time in any electronic program used for the event, calculate placements for the official to verify and to help arrange awards.
- Timing Steward(s). A Timing Steward is assigned the task of timing each performance. Prior to each search, the Timing Steward must make sure their stopwatch is set back at zero and ready. For the Novice and Advance levels, only one timing steward is necessary. Clubs that offer Superior, Master and Elite levels must arrange to have two timing stewards. During any search, the Primary or Secondary Timer may give a warning when 30 second of search time is remaining in all levels. Timers will make every effort to give the warnings, but situations may arise when a warning is not given.
 - ***Search Timer. The Search Timer will be utilized during all Nosework classes from Novice through Elite and for all Handler Discrimination classes. Their responsibility is to keep track of the time of the actual search. For Superior, Master and Elite classes, the Search timer will stop and re-start the timing during the class. The stopwatch will be initially started when any part of the dog or handler team crosses the starting line and will stop when the handler calls any "Alert." If the handler is correct, for classes with more than one hide, timing will re-start as soon as the handler gives a command and/or signal to begin searching of the team makes any commitment to begin searching. The search times from each hide will be recorded as the dog's actual time in the following ways:***
 1. ***For one hide: The time on the stopwatch from the start of the search until the handler calls "Alert."***

2. **For more than one hide: The official can record each section of the search times, have the search timer clear the stopwatch and restart again, and then add all search times together for a total search time,**
OR
3. **(Preferred) The Search timer stopwatch is not cleared between searches, the timer is simply stopped and restarted, until the last “Alert” or “Finish” is called.**

The Search time is what is recorded in the judge’s book as the actual time the dog has taken to find the hides and used to determine placements.

- **Element Timer. The Element Timer will be utilized in the Superior, Master and Elite levels and is responsible to time the overall element time. The timing of the search will begin when any part of the dog or handler team crosses the start line and will end when the handler calls the final “Alert” or “Finish.” The Element timer does not need to provide the element time to the official for any Superior, Master, or Elite classes unless the official requires it, or the team has gone over the allowed element time. After the official records the search time on the score sheet, the timer will immediately set their stopwatch back to zero in readiness to start timing again for the next team. The Element timer is the one who gives the 30 second and/or 10 second warnings since they are tracking the allowable time the team has to complete the search.**

No dog and handler team may exceed the maximum element or search time as posted at the trial.

- **Equipment Steward. Judges have the authority to set their own equipment at their discretion.** The Equipment Steward is assigned to care for all the nosework articles, equipment, distractors and other such items that are used by the club for Interior and/or Exterior searches (minus vehicles). The Equipment Steward is responsible to see that **all boxes used for Handler Discrimination and Container searches are available and if required, are correctly numbered, meet the specifications for each class,** and have the correct number of containers available for all the classes being offered at the trial. The Equipment Steward is to set aside the odor boxes that are required to be under the care of the Box Steward.
- **Box Steward. Judges have the authority to set their own equipment and care for boxes at their discretion.** The responsibility of the Box Steward is to care for the odor boxes. No one except the Box Steward should handle any of the odor boxes, nor should the Box Steward handle any of the blank or distractor boxes. The Box Steward also assures the boxes used at the start of any trial using a container/box, is free of any other residual target odors boxes. Between each search, the Box Steward is responsible to wipe the odor box down using a clean towel or paper towel, and to set the box back in line. In the Handler Discrimination classes, if it is necessary to adjust any of the handler’s personal items, the steward must use tongs or some other type of instrument in order not to transfer their scent onto the item.

CHAPTER 13 DEFINITIONS

Actual Search Time. *The actual accumulated time on the stopwatch from the time when any part of the dog/handler team crosses the start line, the handler gives a search command, or begins to search, to each call of alert For Novice and Advanced Nosework classes and all Handler Discrimination classes, this would also be the same as the Element time. For Superior, through Elite (or all classes with more than one hide), this is the amount of time the dog is actively searching allowing for the stop and restart of timing. This is the time that is recorded in the judge's sheet.*

Accessible Hides. *A hide in a location where the dog can reach the source of odor with its nose.*

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 or action that can compromise the integrity of the hides or causes damage to the area of the hide or on the object. Examples of aggressive alerts includes, but is not limited to: scratching, pawing, pushing objects, digging, biting at the hide or object, **excessive** licking **of** the hide or object.

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 **target** odor for Nosework trials. **Blank areas will normally occur only in Interior element searches.**

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 Official (CO). Suitably authorized individuals with relevant training and experience who administer and assess the performance of the canine team. Certifying Officials are responsible for ensuring that the event is run according to UKC rules and regulations. Certifying Officials will place or oversee the placing of all hides in the trial, hold the official briefing, handlers briefing, and monitor all elements of the trial. Certifying Officials will have the 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.

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 the maximum time specified in each section for each element. ***The Element time is the accumulated time on the stopwatch from the time when any part of the dog/handler team crosses the starting line, or begins to search, to the time when the handler makes the final call of “alert” or “finish.” This time is not stopped and restarted but continues to run for the entire time the dog is searching or until the designated allowed time is accumulated.***

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

Excused. A dog that has been excused by a judge or an official in any event may not participate in any other events of the same type in the same show or trial, except that in an applicable performance event, an excused dog may compete in another class at the same trial. A dog excused ***in Trial 1 may*** be shown again on the same day in ***Trial 2***, and it is also eligible for any performance events on the same 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.

Hides. ***The hidden odor the dog is searching for, contained inside a scent receptacle, and placed on or inside objects in a designated search area. All objects and vehicles used for placing hides for an Interior, Exterior, or Vehicle search may only be used once in a class and during a trial weekend to protect the integrity of the hides for all classes.***

Immediate Family. spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, grandchild, in-law is considered immediate family members.

Inaccessible Hides. ***A hide that is not close enough for a dog to reach the source of odor to pinpoint the exact location of the hide.***

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.

Nested Search Area. ***Search areas built upon as classes advance. An area can begin as a Novice Interior/Exterior Search area and the continually enlarged up to the requirements for an Elite area. Once any hide location is used, it must be completely removed from the search area before moving on to the next class. For instance: Novice Interior area contains 12 hides. The hide is located inside the pocket of a folding chair. The chair containing the hide must be totally removed from the area prior to using the area again or enlarging the area for an Advanced Interior search.***

Non-Qualifying Search. Also referred to as an “NQ,” “Non-Passing,” or “Zero score.” A non-qualifying search results from an unsuccessful performance, as specified in these Regulations, or from an unacceptable behavior or 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 that demonstrates proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect and a sense of fellowship with one’s competitors; while exhibiting, responsibility, self-control and respect for both authority and opponents.

Staging area. Also known as on-deck areas is an area provided by the club for all dogs who have not completed their search. For Handler Discrimination and element classes only one staging area will be required. 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 **any part of** the start line.

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

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.

