

W.D.D.O. Standard Operating Procedures for Conducting Randomized Double Blind Certification Testing for Scent Detection Canine Teams

All W.D.D.O Scent Detection Canine Team Certification Tests are based on “Double Blind” testing methods. Double blind refers to the fact that neither the tested team, nor anyone else present in testing areas during testing is aware of how many hides are placed or the locations of hides in search areas, or if hides are placed in a given search area. Further, the number of hides and/or locations of hides are based on randomized choices, typically by rolling a twelve sided die, or through use of a random number generator.

General Test Rules:

Persons wishing to challenge a W.D.D.O. Randomized Double Blind Certification Test for Scent Detection Canines must first be members of the organization in good standing, having paid all applicable membership dues, and completed all appropriate applications. Certificates, as well as other member benefits will not be awarded to persons that have not met all requirements for membership.

Certificates are awarded to members in good standing that successfully challenge all phases of the appropriate test. Teams awarded certification under this test will have demonstrated their ability to locate evidence of the target odor in condition similar to those encountered in real world scenarios.

Hides used in these tests are to contain a varying amount of the target odor, be it insects, narcotics, or explosives within the defined parameters listed in each individual test’s documentation.

No containers, insects, substances, or substrate, or any other items or materials are to be used in these tests that have ever been treated or exposed to any pesticides, fungicides, or other chemicals designed to kill, or clean, or neutralize the target odor.

No pseudo scents or scented toys are allowed for use in the tests.

During testing, handlers are not allowed to move, open, or disturb any items, or otherwise in any manner alter an area in an attempt to visually confirm or reveal the presence or absence of a hide. Doing so will result in disqualification.

No person other than the tested handler is allowed to interpret the canine’s behavior or to offer advice or assistance to the handler in interpreting a tested canine’s behavior. Upon becoming aware of such assistance, the Testing/Certifying Official will stop the test, and the handler will be disqualified.

Alerts are to be recorded on the handler answer sheet by the tested handler, or Proctor where applicable. Upon completion of all phases of the test, the handler will review the Handler Answer Sheet to ensure that all answers are correct and accurate, and turn the Handler Answer Sheet in to the Testing/Certifying Official for grading.

Teams that are unsuccessful on their first attempt are allowed to retest once within twenty four hours. If the team is unsuccessful on a second attempt, they must wait thirty days, and are recommended to obtain additional training before challenging the test again.

Handlers are strongly encouraged to read the Standard Operating Procedures for the test they will be taking prior to challenging the test, and become familiar with each phase. If you have questions please ask for clarification from the Testing/Certifying Official, or send inquiries to certification@wddo.org prior to testing. S.O.P.s for each test may be found at <http://www.wddo.org/certification>.

Test Phases:

Burn Matrix:The Burn matrix consists of six metal paint cans with a random assortment of pine wood, Styrofoam, plastic, carpet and pad, and paper. A flame is applied to the contents of each can until significant pyrolyzation has

occurred. An petroleum based ignitable liquid is added to one or two cans as described in the test S.O.P. and allowed to burn 15 – 30 seconds before being extinguished. To successfully challenge the Burn Matrix Phase, the tested team must have no false alerts (false positives), and no misses (false negatives). Tested teams will have a total of not more than ten minutes to complete the Burn Matrix Phase.

Basic Odor Recognition: This phase consists of 8-10 pieces of PVC pipe mounted vertically on a 2x4, with a snugly fitting cap with holes drilled through. At the discretion of the Testing Official, a suitable replacement may be used. A minimum of one pipe will contain a hide, and maximum of two pipes may contain a hide. Pipes containing a hide will be separated by a minimum of two blank pipe. To successfully challenge the Basic Odor Recognition Phase, the tested team must have no false alerts (false positives), and no misses (false negatives). Tested teams will have a total of not more than ten minutes to complete the Basic Odor Recognition Phase.

Room Search: This phase of testing will consist of four rooms, or areas. A minimum of one room or area will contain a hide, and a maximum of three rooms or areas may contain a hide. All alerts indicated by the handler must be within three feet of the specific location of the hide, or the alert is considered false. During the Room Search Phase of the test, the team is allowed one false alert (false Positive). The team must find and properly identify the location of all target odors and is not allowed to miss any hide. Tested teams will have a total of not more than twenty minutes to complete the Room Search Phase.

Vehicle Search: This phase of testing will consist of three vehicles. A minimum of zero vehicles may contain a hide, and a maximum of two vehicles may contain a hide. All alerts indicated by the handler must be within three feet of the specific location of the hide, or the alert is considered false. During the Vehicle Search Phase of the test, the team is allowed one false alert (false Positive). The team must find and properly identify the location of all target odors and is not allowed to miss any hide. Tested teams will have a total of not more than ten minutes to complete the Vehicle Search Phase.

Luggage Search: This phase of testing will consist of five pieces of luggage. A minimum of zero pieces of luggage may contain a hide, and a maximum of one piece of luggage may contain a hide. To successfully challenge the Luggage Search Phase, the tested team must have no false alerts (false positives), and no misses (false negatives). Tested teams will have a total of not more than ten minutes to complete the Luggage Search Phase.

“Suspect” Lineup Phase: This phase of testing will consist of five “suspects”. A minimum of zero “suspects” may have a hide placed on them, and a maximum of one “suspect” may have a hide placed on them. Alerts must be to the specific shoe or pant cuff of the “suspect” on which the hide was placed or it is considered a false alert. To successfully challenge the “Suspect” Lineup Phase, the tested team must have no false alerts (false positives), and no misses (false negatives). Tested teams will have a total of not more than ten minutes to complete the “Suspect” Lineup Phase.

By signing below I, _____ acknowledge that I have read and understand, and agree to be bound by the terms and rules outlined in this document, as well as those listed in the Standard Operating Procedures for the test I wish to challenge, found at <http://www.wddo.org/certification>.

Signature

Date