

## **Utilizing W.D.D.O. Standard Operating Procedures for Conducting Randomized double Blind Certification Testing for Spotted Lantern Fly Egg Mass Canine Detection Teams**

### **1. General**

- A. Persons wishing to challenge the W.D.D.O. Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) Egg Mass Canine Detection Team 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.
- B. Certificates are awarded to members in good standing that successfully challenge all phases of the test. Teams awarded certification under this test will have demonstrated their ability locate evidence of SLF egg masses in conditions similar to those encountered in the field.
- C. Certificates awarded under this test are valid for one (1) year from the date of testing. If at any time within one calendar year from the date of testing the tested team challenges the test again, and does not earn a passing score, the prior certificate issued will be null and void.
- D. Tests are conducted based on “Double Blind” testing methods. Double blind refers to the fact that neither the tested team nor anyone else present during testing is aware of how many hides are placed or the location of hides in search areas or if hides are placed in a given area. The number of hides, and or location(s) of hides are based on randomized choices, typically by rolling a twelve sided die, or through use of a random number generator. The appropriate choices based on the die roll random number generator roll are outlined below in Section two, Test Setup Procedures. All phases of the test shall include at a minimum of one bland search area or item, as well as one search area or item containing an appropriate hide.
- E. Prior to testing each handler will be given a copy of the W.D.D.O. Double Blind Canine Scent Detection Certification Test Overview sheet. Must be turned into the Testing and/or Certifying official.
- F. Tests are structured and planned by a properly qualified and appointed individual under W.D.D.O. guidelines and procedures as possessing the knowledge and experience to properly structure a test. This person is referred to hereafter as the “Testing Official.” The Testing Official is responsible structuring each test as well as ensuring that all applicable rules and guidelines outlined below are adhered to. When the camera system is used in lieu of a proctor to observe the tested team(s) during the testing, the Testing official is also responsible for monitoring the team’s progress for the duration of the test.
- G. Tests are administered by a properly qualified and appointed individual under W.D.D.O. guidelines and procedures as possessing the knowledge and experience to properly administer such a test. This person is referred to hereafter as the “certifying official.” The Certifying Official is responsible for setting up the test at the direction of the Testing Official, and maintaining the integrity of the test. When

the Camera system is used in lieu of a proctor to observe the tested team(s) during the testing the Certifying official is also responsible for monitoring the team's progress for the duration of the test.

- H. Camera System – A camera system may be used to remotely observe the handler during all testing scenarios in place of a Proctor. The Testing and Certifying Officials will monitor the team's progress as the team challenges the test to ensure that all rules outlined in section three of this document and the W.D.D.O. double blind canine scent detection Certification Test Overview Sheet are followed.
- I. Where required by state law or in such situations where deemed necessary by the Testing official and/or Certification official a Proctor is to accompany tested handlers during the test and record all areas chosen by the tested handler as containing hides on the Handler Answer Sheet. If for any arson the camera system is unavailable for use in monitoring the tested team's progress during the testing scenario, a proctor must be assigned to accompany the tested handler.
  - a. The Proctor must be a third, disinterested party with no financial or other interest in the outcome of the test.
  - b. The Proctor must have no prior knowledge of where, or if any hides are placed in a given area.
  - c. Upon completion of the testing, the Proctor will attest through his or her signature on the Handler Answer Sheet, to the test's accuracy and propriety.

## **2. Test Setup Procedures**

### **A. Hides**

- a. Hides used in this test are to contain a varying number of dead lantern fly eggs varied amounts of odor in search scenarios. Hides may also paste used by the lanternfly to hold the egg mass together. If a substrate is included in a hide it should be a neutral material such as blank cardboard.
- b. No containers or insects or substrate or any other items or materials are to be used in these tests that have ever been knowingly treated with or exposed to any pesticides of any type or form whatsoever besides cold (dry ice) treatment
- c. No pseudo scents or scented toys are allowed for use in testing scenarios.
- d. Hides are to be placed in scenarios and allowed to remain there for a minimum of thirty minutes prior to beginning testing.

### **B. Basic Odor Recognition Phase**

#### **a. Scent Boards**

- i. Scent boards are to be prepared as follows: on an eight to ten foot long 2x eight to ten pieces of two inch diameter PVC pipe approximately three inches in length are evenly spaced and mounted vertically. Each pipe should have a properly fitting cap with multiple holes drilled through. These holes

are to be approximately one eighth of an inch or more in diameter and clustered near the center of the cap.

- ii. At the discretion of the Testing Official, a suitable replacement, such as empty unused clean paint cans or similar containers deemed suitable by the Testing Official, may be substituted for the scent boards described above.

3. **Determining the Number of Hides** – The choice as to how many of the pipes will contain hides is based on rolling a twelve sided die, or using a random number generator. The result of this roll is to be recorded on the Test Setup form.

- a. If a one, two, three, four, five, or six is rolled, one pipe is to contain a hide. The remaining pipes are bland
- b. If a seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, or twelve is rolled two pipes contain a hide. The remaining pipes are blank.

4. **Placement of Hides** – the hides are to be placed on the board with at least two blank pipes between pipes containing hides, according to the following procedure. The results of each roll are to be recorded on the Test Setup Form.

- a. Each pipe is to be assigned and clearly marked with a number beginning with one
- b. A twelve sided die or a random number generator is used to determine in which pipes hides should be replaced
- c. Depending on the number of pipes included, rolls with a value of nine, ten, eleven, or twelve will be discarded and rerolled if there is no matching pipe or container of that number
- d. The first roll will determine the number of the pipe in which the first hide will be placed. Each subsequent hide if called for by the initial roll to determine the number of hides is to be determined by another roll.
- e. Subsequent rolls that would call for placing a hide in a pipe already containing a hide or immediately adjacent to a pipe already containing a hide will be discarded and call for another roll.
- f. This process is to be repeated until all hides have been placed in accordance with the procedures outline here.

#### **C. Vehicle Search Phase**

- a. Three uncontaminated vehicles shall be used for the vehicle search phase of testing. Each vehicle shall be assigned a unique number of one through three
- b. No one vehicle will contain more than one hide
- c. A minimum of one of the vehicles will be “blank,” in that no hides will be placed on that vehicle
- d. **Number of hides to be placed-** to determine if the number of vehicles containing a hide a twelve sided die or a random number generator is used. The result of this roll is to be recorded on the Test Setup Form.
  - i. If a one, two, three, or four, or five, or six is rolled, one hide is to be placed on one of the vehicles and the other two vehicles are to be blank.
  - ii. If a seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, or twelve is rolled one hide is to be placed on two of the vehicles, and the other vehicle is to be blank.

- e. **Identifying Vehicles on Which Hides are to be placed** – To determine which of the vehicles on which a hide will be placed a twelve sided die, or random number generator is used. The results of each roll are recorded on the Test Setup form.
  - i. A roll of one, two, three, or four indicates that the hide is to be placed on vehicle numbered as one.
  - ii. A roll of five, six, seven or eight indicates that the hide is to be placed on vehicle numbered as two.
  - iii. A roll of nine, ten, eleven, or twelve indicates that the hide is to be placed on the vehicle numbered as three.
  - iv. The first hide is to be placed based on the roll as indicated here in this section. Each subsequent hide will be determined according to the same process taking into account that duplicate rolls and rolls that would cause a second hide to be hidden on the same vehicle will be discarded , and call for an additional roll until all hides have been placed in accordance with these procedures.
- f. **Placing the hides** – the location of hides placed on each vehicle is to be determined by rolling a twelve sided die, or use of a random number generator. This is the recommended best practice for placing hides on the assigned vehicles, but the Testing Official may place the hides using his or her discretion if deemed necessary. The location of each hide is to be recorded on the Test Setup Form.
  - i. Each vehicle is to be divided into four quadrants, individually numbered one through four.
    - 1. A roll of one, two or three indicates that the hide is to be placed in the quadrant numbered as one.
    - 2. A roll of four, five or six indicates that the hide is to be placed in the quadrant numbered as three.
    - 3. A roll of ten, eleven, or twelve, indicates that the hide is to be placed in the quadrant numbered as four.
  - ii. This process is to be repeated for each vehicle determined to contain a hide. Until all hides have been placed.

#### **D. Testing Procedures**

##### **a. Security**

- i. After planning the test and placing the hides in the test area, the Testing and/or Certifying Official is to maintain strict control of the form(s) containing information regarding test answers until after testing is complete
- ii. Separate areas are to be designated for handlers who are preparing to test and handlers who have completed testing. Until testing is completed the two groups should remain separate.
- iii. Upon a handler's completion of a test, his or her Handler Answer Sheet should be immediately turned into the Testing or Certifying Official
- iv. During the test, handlers are not allowed to move, open, or disturb any items or instruction by any means from anyone. If the testing/certifying

official (or proctor where applicable) becomes aware of any such outside influence, the team will be disqualified.

**b. Basic Odor Recognition Phase**

- i. Tested teams will first have to successfully challenge the Basic Odor Recognition Test
- ii. Tested teams will have a total of not more than ten (10) minutes to complete the Basic Odor Recognition Phase
- iii. Handlers will enter the testing area alone, or with a Proctor when applicable. The Testing and Certifying Official will observe the test through the use of the camera system monitoring the testing area. If the camera system is unavailable for use in monitoring the test for any reason, a proctor where applicable, will record the handlers choices on the Handler Answer Sheet to ensure that it accurately records their choices.
- iv. The handler and the Proctor where applicable, will sign the Handler answer Sheet and immediately turn it in to the Testing and/or Certifying Official.

**c. Vehicle Search Phase**

- i. After successful completion of the Basic Odor Recognition Phase, The tested handler will move to the Vehicle Search Phase.
- ii. Tested teams will have a total of not more than (10) minutes to complete the Vehicle Search Phase
- iii. Handlers will enter the testing area alone, or with a proctor where applicable. The Testing and Certifying official will observe the test through the use of the camera system monitoring the testing area. If the camera system is unavailable for use in monitoring the test for any reason, a proctor must be used.
- iv. The tested handler, or proctor where applicable will record the handler's choices on the Handler answer Sheet.
- v. Upon completion of the test scenario, the handler will review the Handler answer Sheet to ensure that it accurately records their choices.
- vi. The handler and the proctor where applicable, will sign the Handler answer Sheet and immediately turn it in to the Testing and/or Certifying Official.

**E. Scoring**

- a. **Recording results** – Alerts for each phase of the test are to be recorded on the Handler Answer Sheet by the handler or the accompanying Proctor where applicable. The Handler Answer Sheet is reviewed by the tested handler to ensure that it accurately represents the handler's choices of alerts. The form is then signed by the handler and by the Proctor where applicable and submitted to the testing and/or Certifying Official for review.
  - i. No person other than the tested handler is allowed to interpret the canine's behavior. It is the sole responsibility of the tested handler to interpret the action of the canine, and identify areas where the canine has indicated the presence of the target odor.

- ii. It is the sole responsibility of the tested handler to clearly and accurately communicate and record (or where applicable, have the Proctor record) the specific area(s) identified by the canine as the areas containing the target odor.
    - iii. Failure to successfully pass any phase of the test will be considered as a fail for the entire test.
  - b. **Basic Odor Recognition Phase-** In order to successfully challenge the Spotted Lantern Fly testing the team must complete the Basic Odor Recognition Phase of the test with no false alerts (false positives) and no misses (false negatives).
  - c. **Vehicle Search Phase-** 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. All alerts indicated by the handler must be within three (3) feet of the specific location of the hide or the alert is considered false.
- F. **Retesting -**
  - a. Teams that are unsuccessful on the first attempt at the test are allowed to retest once within twenty-four (24) hours of the first attempt.
  - b. If the team fails to successfully challenge the test on the second attempt, the team must then wait thirty (30) days before being eligible to challenge the test again.
- G. **Testing records** – Test related documents will be maintained for thirty (30) days in the event of an appeal. After the thirty (30) day appeal window, all test related documents will be destroyed. The only record maintained after thirty (30) days will be a record of teams who earned a passing grade.
- H. **Appeals process** – If a tested handler wishes to appeal the results of a test, a written request must be submitted to the Certification Committee within ten (10) calendar days of the test. The request for appeal may be sent via email to secretary @wddo.org or by mail to W.D.D.O. certification Committee 262 Kennel Dr. Vincent, AL 35178