



ANKC SCENT WORK FAQ

WHERE CAN I GET A COPY OF THE ANKC RULES?

They are available on the ANKC website at <http://ankc.org.au/media/9409/21-canine-scent-work-rules-01-07-20.pdf>

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SCENT WORK AND NOSE WORK?

Scent work and nose work are the same thing. The sport was started by detection dog handlers in the USA and they called it K9 Nose Work. Since then, there are many organisations around the world who have taken up the sport and some organisations call it nose work and some scent work.

WHAT ARE Q-TIPS?

Q-tip is the American version of cotton bud or cotton tip and these terms are used interchangeably in scent work and nose work. Scent work requires that the cotton buds have paper stems refer to our [suppliers guide](#) for brand information.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SCENT AND ODOUR?

Technically, there may be a point of difference but in our sport both terms generally mean the same thing.

SCENT

WHERE CAN I BUY 'OFFICIAL' SCENTS/ODOURS?

There are a number of suppliers in Australia and overseas. Some are listed on our [suppliers guide \[link\]](#) but if you prefer to source your scents elsewhere, make sure they are 100% pure essential oils and have the correct scientific names listed in the rules Section 4 *Division and Elements*.

I'VE READ THAT ESSENTIAL OILS CAN BE TOXIC. COULD THESE SCENTS BE HARMFUL TO MY DOG?

Nearly all essential oils are toxic in large quantities. We use cotton buds infused with scent, so only minute concentrations are used in training and competition. Refer to the rules Section 17.1 *Preparation and Storage of Odours*. There is no risk to dogs or humans from these tiny quantities.

If you buy scent in bottles and make up your own Q-tips you should ensure that the bottle is kept in a cool place, safe from dogs and children.

CAN I PREPARE MY OWN Q-TIPS OR DO I NEED TO BUY THEM PRE-SCENTED?

You can prepare your own, by following the instructions in Section 17.1 of the Rules *Preparation and Storage of Odours*. However, it is much easier to buy pre-scented cotton buds. If you wish to compete ensure that they are of similar concentration to the ANKC guidelines.

IN COMPETITION, HOW WILL I KNOW WHICH SCENT WILL BE USED AT WHICH LEVEL?

Any, or all of the four (4) scents, may be used at any level in a trial. The trial schedule will advise which scents will be used in the Classes offered at the Trial.

WHY IS THE SCENT CONCENTRATION DIFFERENT TO AKC (AMERICAN KENNEL COUNCIL)?

AKC uses a very strong concentration of scent. Other jurisdictions (including ANKC) have made the decision to use weaker concentrations so there is less chance of the scent pooling in searches.

WHICH SCENT SHOULD I TEACH MY DOG FIRST? DOES MY DOG NEED TO KNOW ALL THE SCENTS BEFORE I TRIAL?

It is up to you as a handler or to your instructor to decide which scent/s you should teach your dog first – there are many different approaches. If you are in a class or doing an online course your instructor may suggest a particular scent or scents and explain their reasons.

However, your dog does need to know all the target odours before you trial. The trial schedule will advise which scents are being used for each Class Category at the trial, so if you have a Novice Dog that is only on one scent, you will need to see if that Trial will be suitable for your dog.

In practice, by the time most dogs are ready to trial you will have had sufficient time to train all four (4) scents. This is very easy for the dogs to learn.

AUSTRALIAN CANINE SCENT WORK (ACSW)

CAN I COUNT PASSES WITH AUSTRALIAN CANINE SCENT WORK (ACSW) TOWARD AN ANKC TITLE?

No, ACSW and ANKC are separate organisations. Passes and titles in one organisation do not count towards qualifications or titles with the other .

TRIALS AND TITLES

HOW DO I BECOME AN ANKC SCENT WORK JUDGE?

The requirements for becoming a judge are outlined in Regulations 3N Judges Training Scheme http://ankc.org.au/media/9412/ankc-reg3n-canine-scent-work-judges_jul-20.pdf . Aspiring judges must be members of their ANKC state member body.

ARE THERE GUIDELINES FOR AN AFFILIATE WISHING TO HOST A TRIAL?

Yes, they are available at [xxxx](#). If you would like more information you can also contact your National Scent Work Committee State Representative through your State Body.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CLASS TITLE AND AN ELEMENT TITLE?

There are four levels in Scent Work called Classes: Novice, Advanced, Excellent, Masters and in each of these classes dogs compete in four Elements - Containers, Interiors, Exteriors and Vehicles. Competitors can earn a Class Title by gaining the required passes in each Element. An Element Title is earned by gaining the required passes in your chosen Element at each Class level.

Class Titles go down and Element Titles go across.

	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXCELLENT	MASTERS
CONTAINERS	TITLES			
INTERIORS	ELEMENT TITLES			
EXTERIORS	CLASS			
VEHICLES				

DO I NEED TO QUALIFY TO ENTER A TRIAL?

There is no pre-requisite to enter a trial at Novice Level. As with all ANKC sanctioned events, you will need to be a member of a State Body, and your dog will need to be registered with a State Body.

DO I HAVE TO ENTER ALL ELEMENTS IN A CLASS?

No. Affiliates are not required to offer all elements at a trial. The trial schedule will advise which classes and elements will be offered. You do not have to enter all elements in a class.

CAN I ENTER MORE THAN 1 CLASS WITHIN AN ELEMENT?

No. You can only enter one Class within an Element.

I HAVE TWO DOGS WHO ARE THE SAME LEVEL. CAN THEY BOTH COMPETE IN THE SAME CLASS AT A TRIAL?

You may not handle two dogs in the same class at a trial. Multiple dogs from the same owner may compete provided each has a separate handler.

I HAVE A DISABILITY AND USE A WHEELCHAIR OR WALKER. CAN I COMPETE WITH MY DOG?

Competitors may use mobility aids. Every effort will be made to ensure that trials are held in accessible areas, however you should be aware that outdoor search areas may be uneven surfaces. If unsure whether the access at a trial venue will be suitable, you should contact the host club and enquire.

AM I ALLOWED TO REWARD MY DOG IN THE RING AND WHAT KINDS OF REWARD CAN I USE?

Yes! In fact you are encouraged to reward your dog.

You can take food or a toy into the ring. You will be penalised if you use these to lure the dog, or if you drop food in the search area. If rewarding with a ball or toy you may not use a toy that makes a noise, and the toy or ball must stay in contact with the competitor at all times – it may not be thrown.

DOGS

DOES MY DOG NEED TO BE OBEDIENT TO DO SCENT WORK?

Dogs need a moderate level of training to ensure they can cope effectively with the trial environment. However it is not necessary to have advanced obedience skills for scent work, and there is no pre-requisite for your dog to be allowed to trial.

MY DOG IS REACTIVE/ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE, CAN THEY STILL TAKE PART IN SCENT WORK?

Scent work is generally suitable for those dogs who need space. Competition takes place with no other dogs present and trial organisers make every effort to ensure that there is reasonable provision for these dogs, including quiet waiting areas and staging arrangements that minimise contact with other dogs.

However as with all dog sports, there are no guarantees, and it is up to owners to determine if they believe the environment is appropriate for their dog.

HOW OLD DOES MY DOG HAVE TO BE TO COMPETE?

Dogs can compete from the age of 6 months.

MY DOG IS ELDERLY/HAS ONLY THREE LEGS/ IS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS. CAN SHE COMPETE IN TRIALS?

It is your responsibility to ensure that your dog is physically well and able to perform all the requirements of a search. Dogs with physical or behavioural challenges can compete, provided in the opinion of the judge they don't show any signs of physical or psychological stress or discomfort and they can safely complete the requirements of the class.