



K9 Detection Sport Rulebook

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Purpose

K9DS was developed to give dogs and handlers a different venue to expand their scent work skills. The skills developed for other scent sport venues are directly applicable to K9DS, even though the target odors are unique. The elements in K9DS resemble the tasks of professional working dogs. Like most scent sports, K9DS focuses on teamwork – the dog and the handler work together to solve the scent puzzles in training and trialing.

Overall, the aim of K9DS is for humans and their canine companions to have fun!

Sportsmanship on Trial Sites

K9DS intends to promote good sportsmanship. Handlers are expected to show respect for all dogs, handlers, judges, volunteers, and host club staff at all times. Good sports play fair and have fun while doing it.

Any abusive treatment of dogs or people, cheating or conspiring to cheat, harassing judges or other trial officials, or other examples of poor sportsmanship will be grounds for dismissal from the trial site and subject to a misconduct hearing. Link to report misconduct: [\[k9ds.dog\]](#). Harsh/treatment of dogs by handlers during a search will result in a failed run.

Dog Behavior on Trial Sites

Handlers are expected to always maintain control of their dogs while on the trial site. Dogs should be on a leash no longer than 6 feet while using the potty areas, walking through the parking areas, and walking to the search areas. Retractable leashes are not permitted on the trial site.

Handlers must ensure that their dogs are not a physical threat to other competitors, judges, and host club staff. K9DS is open to reactive dogs, and handlers are expected to manage their dogs and maintain distance from other dogs. Aggression toward humans or dogs is cause for excusal from the trial site. A dog that bites another dog or human will be banned from participation in future K9DS events.

Pathway to Being a Host Organization

To become eligible to host K9DS trials, you must fill out an application that will gather basic information: [\[k9ds.dog\]](#).

Eligible organizations must have experience holding at least 3 Scentwork/Nosework events within the last 2 years. This experience can come from any venue (e.g., AKC, UKC, NACSW). Photos or videos of one of your venues, with a detailed description, must be provided.

Since Secreterrier is used for all aspects of K9DS, prior experience with Secreterrier is a plus. If you have not yet used Secreterrier to manage your trials, we can provide training. Trial results will be expected to be submitted to Secreterrier within 7 days of the event.

Several recommendations are required:

1. From a competitor that has competed in your events
2. From a judge who you have hired
3. From a volunteer at one of your events

Contact information will be required for all recommendations.

Liability insurance is required, and K9Ds must be listed as also insured. Proof of both is required.

Satisfactory completion of the above will grant an organization provisional status.

We will require video of 5 runs from your first 3 events before you are given full approval to hold K9DS events.

Hosting Trials

Once approved to host trials, organizations can offer 1 or 2 trials per day and can offer 1, 2, or 3 elements each day. Organizations must offer all 3 levels each day, although entries in upper levels will be light or nil initially. We suggest that host organizations start with small trials by limiting the number of entries.

Host organizations will pay K9DS a \$10 sanction fee per day of trial and a \$2 per run fee when results are submitted to K9DS. All transactions will be handled via Secreterrier.com. As usual, Secreterrier will charge handlers \$1 per run entered for a maximum of \$10 per event. Link to sanction request to hold a trial: [\[k9ds.dog\]](#)

Key Officials

All judges must be approved by K9DS. A list of approved judges will be maintained on the K9DS website with the judge's contact information [\[k9ds.dog\]](#). Judges should be limited to no more than 6 hours of judging each day. A trial secretary and trial chairperson must be listed on the trial premium along with their contact information.

Host organizations should identify key volunteers for each trial day. One or more volunteers should be available to manage the flow of competitors to search areas. One or more volunteers should be available to help the judges set-up and clean-up their search areas. A volunteer is needed for Levels 2 and 3 for Human Scent detection.

Becoming a K9DS Judge

To become eligible to judge K9DS events, you must fill out an application: [\[k9ds.dog\]](http://k9ds.dog). Initially, judges will be approved based on experience judging in other Scentwork/Nosework venues and titling one or more dogs at a high level (e.g., AKC Master, NACSW ELT, UKC Elite). Having experience as an instructor for Scentwork/Nosework will be beneficial.

Supplies Needed for K9DS Trials

By design, few supplies are needed to run K9DS trials. Clubs should provide judges with search area start cones and boundary markers, stop watches, scoresheets, and target odors in vessels. The following are approved sources (and strength) of target odors:

Pyrodex: [Pyrodex Pellets | Cabela's](#) (50/50 - 2 pellets?)

Pseudococaine: [Sigma Pseudo Narcotic Scent Cocaine formulation](#) (soak a 100% cotton ball in a solution of 1 tsp powder in 5mL water)

Target odors are to be placed in reusable K cups from any source (e.g., [Amazon.com: 4 Black Reusable K Cups for Keurig Coffee Makers - BPA Free Refillable Kcups Coffee Filters for 1.0 and 2.0 Keurig Brewers: Home & Kitchen](#)). They should be stored at room temperature in an ammo box or equivalent sturdy container.

Clubs should provide scent articles for the human scent element. Scent Articles should be of specified size and material: 1 each of leather, wood, and carpet, each measuring 3.75" X 1". Link to recommended American-made articles: [Schutzhund Working Dog Scent Tracking Articles - ActiveDogs.com](#).

To scent the articles, place them inside an article of clothing (e.g., a bra, glove, shirt, sweatband, or hat - or even inside a pocket) for 30 min before placing them in a sealed bag for trialing or training. Food-grade silicone bags are recommended (e.g., [Amazon.com: 10 Pack Reusable Silicone Food Storage Bags, Leakproof Dishwasher Safe Reusable Freezer Bags for Food Containers, Lunch Bags for Sandwich, Snack, Marinate Meat, Salad Fruit : Baby](#)).

Eligibility of Dogs to Enter K9DS Trials

Dogs aged 6 months and above can enter K9DS trials. Any breed or mixed breed is allowed. All dogs entered in K9DS should be registered with K9DS. There is a one time \$22 registration fee. Link to register dogs is here: [\[secreterrier\]](#).

Dogs that are blind, are deaf, are missing a limb, are in a wheelchair, or wear a brace are allowed.

Bitches in season are allowed. They must wear protective garment and will run in order (i.e., they do not need to run last).

Dogs with sutures or open wounds are NOT allowed on the trial site.

Eligibility of Handlers

Any person can handle a dog in a K9DS trial (i.e., not just the owner). Accommodation for handlers with limitations will be considered upon request to K9DS. Handlers will need to create an account on the Secreterrier website to track their dogs' scores and titles. Link to create an account is here: [\[secreterrier\]](#).

Junior handlers will be encouraged. Handlers aged 7-15 years will be assigned a Junior Handler number. Hosts are encouraged to offer discounts on entry fees to junior handlers. Link to request Junior handler number is here: [\[k9ds.dog\]](#).

Equipment Allowed on Dogs

All searches can be run with the dog on or off leash. No retractable leashes are allowed to be used on the trial site at any time. While transporting the dogs to the search area, no more than 6ft of leash should be used to ensure the dog is under tight control. If the handler chooses to run searches with the dog on leash, that leash should be no longer than 20ft.

Muzzles are allowed to be worn by a dog during a search for safety in searching (e.g., to prevent nondiscriminatory ingestion) but should not be used because the dog has a bite history.

Prong, martingale, slip, and fur-saver collars are allowed on site but the dog must not be linked to the live ring during a search. These collars do not need to be removed for the search. However, handlers should consider safety to ensure the collar will not get caught on items in the search area.

Electronic collars are allowed on site and can be worn by dogs in a search area. Handlers must turn the controller over to the judge before the search begins. Collars that emit citronella are not allowed on site. GPS/locator collars can be always worn on site.

Belly bands are allowed only for dogs with a medical diagnosis, with written proof from a licensed veterinarian. They are not permitted merely because the dog might eliminate in the search area. A dog that eliminates in a search area will be failed.

Rewarding Dogs on Searches

Handlers can reward their dogs with food, toys, praise, or touch at any time during the searches. If a handler or dog drops food or toys in the search area, the dog will be failed.

Search Elements

There are 3 odor types – human scent, pyrodex pellets, and pseudococaine powder. There are 3 levels of complexity for each odor type. All searches at all levels will be run blind. In all cases, the handler makes the alert call and the finish call when number of articles/targets is unknown. There will be a general briefing but no walkthroughs of the search areas.

Elements and Levels	Human Scent All area searches	Pyrodex All contained searches	Pseudococaine Area, contained, or vehicle
1	1-2 volunteer scented articles (# known) 1 distractor	1-2 targets (# known) 1-2 distractors	1-2 targets contained (# known) 1-2 distractors
Max size (sq ft)	1000	1000	1000
Max time (min)	2	2	2
2	1-2 volunteer scented articles (# unknown) 1-2 distractors	1-2 targets (# unknown) 1-2 distractors	1-2 targets on vehicles (# unknown) 1-2 distractors
Max size (sq ft)	1500	1500	1500
Max time (min)	3	3	3
3	0-3 volunteer scented articles (# unknown) 0-3 distractors	0-3 targets (# unknown) 0-3 distractors	0-3 targets in an area (# unknown) 0-3 distractors
Max size (sq ft)	2000	2000	2000
Max time (min)	4	4	4

In Human Scent element, the volunteer will be seated near the start line with an article on their lap as the target.

Scoring

Runs will be scored as Pass/Fail. Placements will be based on time. Runs will be failed if the handler doesn't call alert/finish correctly in the time allotted, food or toy is dropped in the search area, the dog eliminates in the search area, the handler uses harsh treatment of the dog, or the handler exhibits poor sportsmanship.

Awards

Ribbons or rosettes are required for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placements. Pass ribbons will not be offered. Ribbons and rosettes can be any style or color, as long as the K9DS logo is used for ribbons and K9DS button is used for rosettes.

Titles

Titles will be earned based on the number of passes for each odor type and at each level.

Elements and Levels	Handler Scent All area searches	Pyrodex All contained searches	Pseudococaine Area, contained, or vehicle
1			
Title after 5 Passes	CV1	PY1	PC1
Title after 10 Passes	CV1-X2	PY1-X2	PC1-X2
2			
Title after 5 Passes	CV2	PY2	PC2
Title after 10 Passes	CV2-X2	PY2-X2	PC2-X2
3			
Title after 5 Passes	CV3	PY3	PC3
Title after 10 Passes	CV3-X2	PY3-X2	PC3-X2