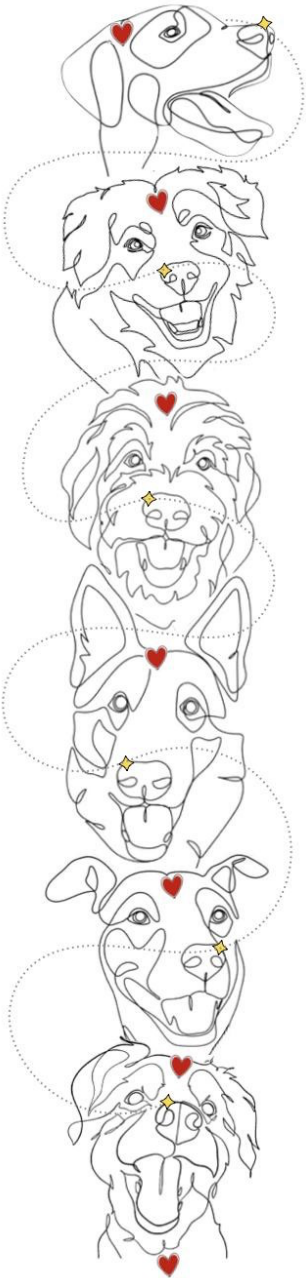




The Canine Nosework Association of South Africa (CNASA)

An association with membership for the practice of canine nosework sports in South Africa

Trial Rules And Regulations

2025

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INTRODUCTION

These trial rules and regulations are established in line with the objectives of the Canine Nosework Association of South Africa (CNASA) which are to encourage a participative and inclusive environment for nosework events, and to set standards for recognisable achievements by dog and handler teams.

The CNASA rules and regulations are applied at all trials held for the purpose of qualifications. At such trials, teams can expect differing search environments depending on the location. Other uncontrollable factors, such as weather conditions, will also affect search areas and participating teams may experience variable conditions during a trial. The CNASA rules and regulations shall be applied consistently irrespective of such variations experienced at trials.

At CNASA sanctioned trials, teams may be awarded qualifications and titles* as follows:

- Odour Recognition Test (ORT)
- Nosework level 1 (NW1)
- Nosework level 2 (NW2)
- Nosework level 3 (NW3)

*Note: this list of qualifications will be expanded to include higher levels and updates to these as well as other rules and regulations will be reflected via CNASA communication channels.

CNasa sanctioned events are open to anyone who is a member of CNASA in good standing. Handlers must be members of CNASA and dogs must be registered with CNASA in order to participate at an ORT and to take part to achieve qualifications at CNASA sanctioned nose work trials. Handlers can attend one CNASA trial before they must sign up membership to earn qualifications and placings at future CNASA competitions.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Eligibility

- CNASA encourages participation by as many dog and handler teams as possible. There are certain eligibility requirements to ensure a harmonious trial environment:
- Dogs must have passed the Odour Recognition Test for all three odours if they are entering for qualification.
- Dogs must be 9 months or older on the first day of the trial. Puppies from 6 months can attend CNASA events and enjoy a fun, sniffy, walkthrough the search areas once the last team has completed their search. Trial organisers can decide if they want to put out treats or odour hides for the puppy to find. If CNASA or trial officials deem that a handler is placing a puppy under pressure to find the treats or hides they will stop the search.
- Dogs with physical challenges (including amputees, deaf and/or blind dogs) may participate provided that they, in the opinion of the Judge, display no physical discomfort or distress and can safely complete the requirements of the trials.
- Dogs with behavioural challenges may participate provided that they, in the opinion of the Judge: are not stressed; remain fully under control of the handler; do not direct overt aggression towards officials.

- CNASA requires those dogs that exhibit aggression to wear a red banner or ribbon, which is visible to the Judge. Please note this is not to place judgement on an aggressive dog, rather to allow the Judge, Certifying Officials, and Trial Organisers to give the dog the respect and space it requires to participate safely. Trial Organisers may have red banners on sale - please enquire when registering at a trial.
- Handlers must be 13 years of age, or older.
- All handlers from 13 to 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult and the adult may not participate in the trial.
- Handlers of differing physical abilities may participate provided they can move about the search area and are able to manage varied terrain and conditions without assistance.
- Bitches in season may participate, if feasible for the Trial Organiser and must be scheduled to run last on the day.

2. Entries

Dogs may only be entered for a trial level for which they are qualified. Dogs that have passed the ORT for all three target odours may enter Nosework level 1 (NW1). Dogs that have achieved two qualifications at NW1 may enter NW2, and dogs that have achieved two qualifications at NW2 may enter NW3. Dogs may continue to compete at their current level of qualification for up to four successful qualifying runs before it is compulsory to move them to the next level of qualification, or to enter as 'not for competition'.

Handlers and/or owners may enter a participating dog under 'not for competition' for any number of reasons. 'Not for competition' dogs are not eligible for any placings, qualifications, or prizes. No scores will be published for dogs running under this category.

Dogs may enter only one level during a trial and must complete all elements at that level. At an element speciality trial, dogs may enter the element at their current level of qualification, or at the next level of qualification provided they have achieved two successful qualifications. Dogs may not be entered at different levels for different trial elements.

A dog may not run in a class at a level below its current qualification unless entered under 'not for competition'.

It is up to the Trial Organisers as to whether they will allow a handler to run multiple dogs. Please check with the participating club's rules and regulations.

3. Handlers

No substitutions of handlers are allowed during a trial. Only the handler reflected at the closing date of entries will be allowed to run the dog unless their participation is limited by medical reasons. Under these circumstances another handler may be substituted.

4. Search Areas and Searches

- The search area and surrounds falls under the control of the Judge during a trial.
- The Judge may brief participants before the start of a trial if deemed necessary.
- Handlers may not request information or assistance from anyone during any of the searches.
- Handlers may not receive instruction or guidance from anyone else during the search.
- Handlers may not actively look for hide locations during a search.
- Handlers may not be informed at the end of their search of the location of hides if their dog is unsuccessful in locating these.
- After a level has ended and all dogs have run, the Judge or Trial Organiser may do a debrief and include explanations of hide locations as well as any other information the Judge deems useful.
- A white dog, which is an accomplished dog with experience in the relevant level or element, should be run on all hides prior to the trial. It is up to the Judge and the organising club to decide when the demonstration run will take place, and the Judge will then make the final decision about hide settings and time allowed per find. The white dog is excluded from entering the trial it was engaged for.
- The search areas may include varied terrain, and handlers take responsibility for their own care as well as that of their dog's.
- The search areas must be defined by clear boundary markers.
- Search area boundaries may be crossed by teams during a search and they will not be penalised provided they keep working.
- Searches are generally run on leash. The Judge or Certifying Official at a trial may allow off leash searches if a search area is deemed safe, for example an enclosed room, or a fenced or walled area.
- Should a dog start a search off leash, the handler may attach the leash again during the search.
- When a dog indicates a hide, their sourcing behaviour may be subtle or overt. The Judge only acknowledges the handler's "alert" call, not the dog's behaviour.
- Handlers may reward their dogs during searches. Food and toy rewards are allowed but neither may contaminate the search area or any objects therein including hides. Food may not be dropped, and toys may not be thrown.
- Contamination of the search area or hides is not allowed. Handlers may not touch anything in the search area and should actively try to prevent any other form of contamination from taking place, such as leash dragging or touching objects, dog excessively touching or knocking objects, or similar.
- Natural contamination in the search area is expected in the normal course of events, and is accepted.
- Significant contamination or violation of the search area or hide can result in the Judge's decision to replace objects or relocate the hide as required to bring the search area back to usable condition. If the contamination arises from a handler or dog contaminating the hide through direct handling, mouthing, or similar, the Judge must replace the hide with a hide, placed in exactly the same position as the previous hide. NO DEVIATION from the original position is allowed under these circumstances. The trial may commence again after a 10-minute waiting period. If the contamination arises from the area being fouled (a dog urinating or defecating, etc.), the hide must be moved to a position at least 3 metres from the original position. The trial may commence again after a ten-minute waiting period. For the latter contamination scenario, residual odour may still outweigh that of

the newly placed hide given environmental factors. Thus a dog that insists the target remains in the original position, and called by the handler **should not under these circumstances be disqualified**. Rather, the handler should be informed that their dog is alerting to residual odour from a previous placement, and that they are allowed to continue the search.

- If the search area does not allow for the minimum distance of 3 metres to be observed, placement must be at the maximum distance the search area will allow, the area or box must be indicated as contaminated and the search time to be appropriately adjusted down on the search to maintain fairness. The degree of time adjustment is at the discretion of the Judge.
- Repeating a search. A dog may be permitted to repeat a search if, in the opinion of the judge, the team encountered extraordinary circumstances that were out of the control of the handler. The circumstances must have been caused by the judge, steward, spectator, or another dog, in order to warrant a rerun.

5. Dog Management and Attire

- CNASA strongly encourages dogs to be kept in crates, vehicles or suitably benched when not in designated walking areas, practice areas or actively working in search areas. Please check and abide by the Trial Organiser's rules and regulations on this matter
- All participants at a trial are expected to act with care in line with CNASA's objective to provide a participative and inclusive environment. Since dogs with behavioural challenges are allowed to participate, organisers, officials and handlers must at all times be aware of their own demeanour and as far as possible allow space for dogs to enter search areas and complete searches without pressure or hindrance. CNASA strongly encourages handlers to avoid any close dog-on-dog encounters, as well as to prevent visibility of waiting dogs around search areas. It is up to the individual Trial Organisers to allow non-reactive dogs and handlers to socialise on-lead only if it does not have a detrimental effect on those dogs that are waiting for their turn. Handlers must also manage any general disturbing behaviours such as excessive vocalization or other.
- Dogs that show overt aggression to the extent that they cannot focus on completing a search safely within the search area, including movement from the Judge when necessary, are not allowed to participate and will be asked to leave the trial venue.
- Dogs that require space must be identifiable at distance through the wearing of a red bandana.
- Handlers are responsible for the general care and welfare of their dogs at a trial.
- CNASA advocates for the use of flat collars and/or harnesses. In certain situations, e.g., with highly reactive or aggressive dogs, secure handling equipment may be necessary for the safety of both the handlers and other participants. In these cases, we ask that handlers use such equipment responsibly and with the utmost care to avoid any unnecessary discomfort or harm to the dog. The Trial Organiser may request dogs requiring special equipment are run last.
- Pet corrector sprays or other punitive aids are not permitted at trial.
- Accessories such as paw covers, booties, jackets, muzzles, hair ties, as deemed necessary by the handler for safe navigation by the dog of the search area are permitted.
- No DAP collars are allowed.

6. Trial management

- Prior to a trial all participants should be advised of the venue details and trial setup, including walking area, practice areas, and search area layouts. This can be done in any manner deemed suitable by the Trial Organisers. At the time of announcing the trial, the organisers must be able to provide details about the venue to prospective participants.
- Arrival time should be communicated to trial participants and any other arrangements as required by the venue host.
- Run times should be clearly communicated to trial participants and the Trial Organisers should keep to the schedule as closely as possible, as well as communicating any changes to participants. Competitors should be present at the venue at least 30 minutes before their scheduled run time. It is fair for the Trial Organiser to advance or slow down run times within a reasonable frame of time.
- Times for prize giving should be communicated to trial participants and the Trial Organisers should adhere to these times as closely as possible.
- Participant run times may be decided by any method preferred by the Trial Organisers and should be fair to all handlers. Methods to decide run times may be in the order that entries are received, through random draw, or another method that is fair to all entrants. The Trial Organisers may take conditions such as medical issues or other health and wellness concerns into consideration when determining run times.
- Hides may be set anywhere in a search area, including on boundaries, but not in or on an added boundary marker.
- Hides will contain one target odour only.
- Only the person setting the hides may handle the scent vessels and they shall not handle any other objects in the search area.
- Hides are not moved or removed during a trial, i.e., all dogs participating at that level must run the same hides irrespective of changes in environmental conditions.
- If contamination of a hide or search area is significant and cleaning or replacement is required, run times should be delayed by 10 minutes once the new setting has been completed and the delay communicated immediately to all participants whose run times are affected.

7. Qualifications, Titles and Placings

- All qualifications or titles are awarded to the registered dog, irrespective of the handler.
- Qualifications and titles do not expire.
- Placings are based on dogs with the most points, and in the event of a tie for points, the fastest time.
- Dogs may achieve placings without having to achieve a qualification.

8. Handler Calls

There must be a clear communication from the handler to the Judge that the dog has indicated the location of the hide. The handler usually calls 'Alert' and raises their hand. Any call is permissible as long as it is clear to the Judge.

The Judge will confirm the 'Alert' call by saying 'Yes' or 'No'. If a handler calls alert on a hide they have already found, the Judge will advise 'already found' and ask the competitor to continue searching.

If the Judge is uncertain about the alert call, the Judge may ask the handler to show where the hide is. In these scenarios, the handler must point to within 15cm of the hide to be considered correct. The handler may not ask the dog to search or indicate again. The handler may not touch the hide.

In levels where the number of hides are unknown, the handler is required to call 'Finish' when they believe that all hides in the search area have been located and called, or a blank area is cleared. The 'Finish' call stops the official search time.

If the hide is out of reach of the dog, it must be clear that the dog has indicated the axis of the hide. For inaccessible hides, the dog is expected to get as close as possible to the hide location.

9. Spectators

If spectators attend a trial, they must be advised of relevant rules by the organisers. Spectators may not impart any information about the trial to other participants during the event. If there is any uncertainty of whether spectators are allowed, the Certifying Official should be consulted. At some trials, spectators might not be allowed to observe searches due to limits on space and possible interference with the search area or participating dog.

Handlers may request to run their dog with no spectators present. This should be communicated to the Trial Organiser and Judge before the start of the event. The Trial Organiser and Judge shall attempt to the best of their abilities to manage this request. Handlers should be aware that there may be more than one or two officials present during searches and the officials may move around the search area as necessary.

10. Trial Organisers

Trial Organisers who are planning events for qualifications according to the CNASA regulations should submit an annual calendar of prospective events to CNASA by 31 January of each calendar year. CNASA will then advise the availability of Certifying Officials for the proposed dates by the end of February of that year. Once dates have been agreed, events will be communicated to CNASA members. It is preferable to schedule dates some time in advance, but CNASA will respond as quickly as possible to any suggestions for trial dates and will support the holding of nose work trials.

Trial Organisers must submit to CNASA a list of all entrants at the trial at least 7 working days before the trial date. CNASA will confirm the current standing of entrants, i.e., whether the handlers are CNASA members in good standing, and what the qualification status is of the dogs. At this time, the Trial Organiser must pay the CNASA fee of R20 per dog entered.

Trial Organisers may request a list of potential Judges from CNASA, or may put Judges forward by submitting a short motivation. CNASA will review the prospective Judges and advise on their eligibility for judging qualifying trials. NB: this is an interim regulation which will remain in place until nose work trials become more established and regular, and Judges can be accredited at various levels.

The Certifying Officials will be selected by CNASA and communicated to CNASA members and Trial Organisers. Trial Organisers may approach Certifying Officials (CO) or may request CNASA to appoint a CO for any upcoming trials.

Trial Organisers must coordinate with the relevant trial Judges and COs to view the search areas and decide on hide placements and vessels and odour used for hides.

If travel is required, the Trial Organisers must reimburse CO for all travel and accommodation expenses.

At the trial, the CO shall view and validate that the search areas are in line with the requirements for CNASA qualifying trials. The CO shall also review and validate that hide preparation and setup is in line with the requirements. Additionally, the CO shall observe general trial practices and confirm that the approach is in line with CNASA requirements for qualifying trials.

Trial Organisers supply all trial equipment including containers, boundary markers, warm up boxes, and administrative tools such as score sheets, competitor registration and numbers, Judges' search area diagrams, stationery, etc.

Trial Organisers manage the entry process and waiting lists.

Vessels and scent aids may be prepared by Trial Organisers or Judge, or both parties may participate.

Both the Judge and Trial Organisers must be in agreement of hide placements. These placements may be set by either the Judge or organiser. It is, however, the Judge's final decision to confirm hide placement after the white dog has run.

CNASA provides an app for judging and score submission. Trial Organisers should ensure that they are familiar with the app usage, and that results are made available to CNASA using the app format provided within 48 hours of the event completion.

If a manual judging and score sheet process is used, the Trial Organiser shall submit scores for all participants to CNASA within 48 hours of the event completion. Manual scores must be submitted on the standardized, CNASA-supplied spreadsheet. Results will be consolidated into a CNASA database after which both Trial Organisers and CNASA members will be informed of confirmation of their qualification results.

Trial Organisers may, if they wish, provide full details of results such as placings and scores to participants at their trials. This is not compulsory and Trial Organisers should advise trial participants on what to expect.

Officials from the organising party hosting a trial may neither enter their own dogs, nor handle any dogs at the trial.

Trial Organisers shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that all dogs can participate in a safe and relaxed manner. Environmental conditions are to be taken into account, and the trial

organiser may cancel or postpone an event should weather or other conditions be deemed unsafe or prejudicial to the running of the event.

Trial Organisers should arrange sufficient helpers or volunteers to ensure that CNASA sanctioned trials are run smoothly. This includes timekeepers, ushers and general assistants, and any other roles necessary.

Trial Organisers should include terms and conditions as part of the entry process and these should reflect the CNASA rules and regulations as set out in this document.

11. Judges

CNASA will maintain a list of willing and able Judges for Nosework trials.

Judges are responsible for all decisions including points awarded or penalties during searches.

Judges are also responsible for monitoring handler and dog teams as they prepare to search (for example, waiting at the holding area), and after they have completed their search and are leaving the search area to move to the next waiting station.

Judges will brief participants before an event and will do a debrief after the class is completed.

Judges have the discretion to eliminate dogs that seem overly anxious or fearful, in pain, unmanageable or aggressive.

Judges' Qualifications

Judges will be people who are familiar with nosework trial practices and who fully understand the CNASA rules and regulations.

Judges should be able to use their discretion when necessary to ensure fairness and equitability in all nosework trials where they officiate.

Aspirant judges must be familiar with the CNASA rules and regulations and must shadow an experienced or senior Judge at all levels before being registered by CNASA.

REMINDER

Participants at a trial may not bring their own samples of odour to practice on. The host or trial organiser should provide practice hides set up in a practice area which is not close to the search areas.

Participants at a trial may not discuss any part of the search or disclose information about the search area or hides with others until the trial is closed.

12. Scoring and Penalties

Dogs will accumulate points for every hide found during the allowed time.

Each hide found will accumulate 5 points.

Penalties are as follows:

	NW1	NW2	NW3
Dog does not cross the start line	-2	-2	-2
Accidentally causing mild compromise to the search area	-2	-2	-2
Contamination – handler touching objects in search area, dog pawing, mouthing objects in search area, etc. Dropped food or toy. Elimination/fouling.	DQ	DQ	DQ
Calling first false alert	Judge notes false alert	Judge notes false alert	-2
Calling second false alert	DQ	DQ	DQ
Failure to call 'Finish'	-	Timer continues	Timer continues
Handler leads dog to hide	DQ	DQ	DQ
Harsh handling	DQ	DQ	DQ
Handler actively looks for hide	DQ	DQ	DQ
Discussion of search or search area	DQ	DQ	DQ
Bringing own samples of odour onto trial premises	DQ	DQ	DQ
Anxious, fearful, in pain, unmanageable or directed aggressive behaviour from dogs (targeting officials, spectators, or handler)	DQ	DQ	DQ

13. Appeals Process

Handlers who believe that their search results are incorrectly reflected may submit a motivated appeal to CNASA for review. This appeal must be submitted to CNASA via their published email address within 24 hours of the relevant trial's completion.

CNESA TESTS AND TRIALS

ODOUR RECOGNITION TEST

One target odour per container (8 – 10) setup.

Three container setups.

Overview

An Odour Recognition Test (ORT) formally assesses a dog's readiness for CNESA sanctioned nosework trials. A dog must pass all three target odours (cypress, clove and aniseed) to be awarded an ORT title, and to successfully progress to CNESA sanctioned nosework trials. An ORT title can be achieved within a single ORT or can be cumulatively earned at successive ORTs.

Organisers may run ORTs on any number of odours. Results of the ORT must be submitted to CNESA by the organisers. Once a registered dog has passed all three odour tests, the ORT title is awarded. CNESA will confirm the ORT result and advise the handler by email within 7 days of the ORT of their result. Once the ORT title is awarded, the accredited dog may be entered for qualification at CNESA sanctioned nosework trials.

An ORT must be conducted by a CNESA appointed judge and a CNESA Certifying Official must be present at the test. No scoring other than *pass* or *miss* is recorded at an ORT.

ORT Search Area Setup

The ORT may be conducted indoors or outdoors. Target odours are tested individually within distinct search areas, each containing 8 - 10 uniform and uncontaminated boxes (size: ½ - full size shoe box). For example, if all three target odours are being tested, organisers will require three separate search areas and up to 30 boxes in total in order to individually test each target odour. If multiple odours are being tested at an ORT event, search area locations must be suitably separated by distance as to avoid lingering or residual odour from other targets.

Boxes must be placed either in a one or two row setup, with a minimum of 60 cm between box edges. Examples below:

One-row Setup



Two-row Setup



Target and Target Placement

A single ORT target comprises two to three scented swabs (please see CNASA guidelines on scent aid preparation), and placed inside a box (henceforth referred to as the target box). Targets are therefore not visible to the handler. The target box is placed at an identified position, and this position is marked on the Judge's search area diagram. No changes to the target box position may be made during the ORT. Thus, it will remain in the same location for all dogs running. The search area shall be clearly demarcated. The remaining boxes should be reasonably uncontaminated throughout trails (i.e., no touching by handlers and as little contact as possible by participating dogs). No intentional contaminations are included in an ORT search.

Time Limits and Search Area Etiquette

Each dog is allowed 1.5 minutes (90 seconds) to conduct its search, which must be performed on leash. The allotted time begins when the dog crosses the start line. The dog and handler team may use the entire search area. Departures from the demarcated area are allowed, but must remain brief. The team may use any pattern to search the boxes. Handlers may direct the dog towards the boxes but may not touch any boxes.

Limited people are allowed to be present at the search area during an ORT. No other participants in the ORT may spectate, and the Certifying Official must be consulted should anyone other than the required officials and handler wish to be present to observe a run.

Target Indications and False Alerts

When the dog alerts on the target box, the handler should raise their hand and call 'Alert' or communicate clearly to the judge that their dog has found the target using a similar technique. If the dog has moved away from the target box, the judge may ask the handler to confirm the indicated box. In response, the handler must then point at the indicated box. The dog will be scored based on the handler-identified box. The handler may not ask the dog to search or indicate again.

No false alert calls are allowed at an ORT. If the call is correct, the judge will confirm by saying 'Yes' and the handler may reward the dog before leaving the search area. If the alert call is incorrect, the judge will advise by saying 'No' and the team must then leave the search area. At an event where multiple odours are being tested, the dog may proceed to other target search areas, irrespective of performance. Missed odours may not be retested within the same ORT. Dogs must be entered at another ORT event for missed odours, and do not require retesting on odours already passed.

Handling of Contamination

Contamination of hides or the search area is dealt with at the Judge's discretion. Heavier contamination such as dogs pawing or mouthing, handlers dropping food reward, or similar, which the Judge believes will significantly impact subsequent dogs, should be attended to by cleaning the area or removing the contaminated object. The hide placement should preferably not be moved, for example, in the case of a heavily contaminated target box in the container search, the contaminated box should be removed and the hide replaced in a clean box which is placed in the same position as the original.

NOSEWORK TRIALS

Overview

CNESA standard nosework trials encompass three levels: Nosework Level 1, Nosework Level 2 and Nosework Level 3. To earn a NW title, with progression into the next NW level, a dog must qualify in all four elements (i.e., container, interior, exterior and vehicle searches) **twice** at the relevant NW level. This can be achieved sequentially in as little as two trials, or cumulatively across several trials. For a qualification, the dog must successfully source all the hides within the allocated time, across all four elements with a $\geq 90\%$ score for NW1, and $\geq 95\%$ for NW2 and NW3. Dogs that miss a hide in any element, or fail to achieve the percentage required for a NW qualification however remain eligible for a placing. Placings at trials will be determined by the highest score and in the event of a tie, the fastest time. In addition to overall placings, the trial organisers may award other achievements such as fastest successful dog in each element.

After attaining the NW3 title, dogs are eligible for entry into CNESA advanced trials. Further details to be provided – CNESA will publish.

Elements may be run in any order, as decided by the trial organisers.

Handling of Contamination - Refer to pages 5 and 6

OFFICIAL ODOURS

Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), Anise ("Aniseed", *Pimpinella anisum*), Clove or Clove Bud (*Eugenia caryophyllata* or *Syzygium aromaticum* – they are the same) These can be purchased online or at pharmacies such as Dischem.

NOSEWORK LEVEL 1

One hides per element, which can be any of the target odours.

Four elements: containers (8 – 10), interiors (small- to medium-sized), exteriors (10 x 20 m), vehicles (1 – 2; may include 2-wheeled vehicles).

NW1 Element Setup

No hide placements should be visible to handlers (for example, targets for the container element are placed inside the containers). All hides placed should be within nose height of the smallest

dog entered at the trial and should not be more than 60cm from the floor or ground level. All hides should be accessible and should not be placed deep inside closed receptacles such as drawers, cabinets or cupboards, nor should they be placed deep inside holes or under objects or inside vehicles, nor should there be barriers preventing dogs from accessing them. Hides should be placed so that the handlers cannot easily see them. Hide placement in the interior and exterior search areas may make use of normal or natural features, or objects placed in the search area. The size and shape of search areas may vary depending on the location. If there is any doubt of the suitability of a search area, a Certifying Official should be consulted.

Containers: 8 to 10 uniform boxes or other containers (size: ½ - full shoebox size) must be placed in a simple pattern such as a one- to two-row setup, or in a U-shape, at least 60 cm apart.

Interiors: The interior search area must be an enclosed space and should be the size of a small- to medium-sized room, such as a small conference room, an office, a room in a house, or a garage. The interior search area size may vary depending on the space available at the trial location.

Exteriors: The exterior search area (10 by 20 metres) must be outdoors. Unintentional distractors are likely to be common within search areas, and provided these are constant for all dogs, will be ignored. Searches will continue under variable weather and wind conditions for as long as the safety of participating dogs and persons is not in question.

Vehicles: The vehicle search will typically entail the use of 1 - 2 cars or SUVs, but may include any means of transport with at least two wheels.

REMINDER

CNASA events endeavour to give all teams the chance to run without contamination affecting their search. Please arrive at the trial at least 30 minutes before your start time to ensure your dog has a bathroom break.

NOSEWORK LEVEL 2

Two hides per element, which can be any of the target odours.

Four elements: containers (12 – 20), interiors (medium-sized), exteriors (30 x 30 m), vehicles (2 – 3; may include 2-wheeled vehicles).

NW2 Element Setup

No hide placements should be visible to handlers (for example, targets for the container element are placed inside the containers). All hides placed should be within nose height of the smallest dog entered at the trial and should not be more than 60cm from the floor or ground level. All hides should be accessible and should not be placed deep inside closed receptacles such as drawers, cabinets or cupboards, nor should they be placed deep inside holes or under objects or inside vehicles, nor should there be barriers preventing dogs from accessing them. Hides should be placed so that the handlers cannot easily see them. Hide placement in the interior and exterior search areas may make use of normal or natural features, or objects placed in the search area. The size and shape of search areas may vary depending on the location. If there is any doubt of the suitability of a search area, a Certifying Official should be consulted.

Containers: 12 to 20 uniform boxes or other containers (size: ½ - full shoebox size) must be placed in a simple pattern such as a one- to two-row setup, or in a U-shape, at least 60 cm apart.

Interiors: The interior search area must be an enclosed space and should be the size of a medium-sized room, such as a conference room, an office, a room in a house, or a garage. The interior search area size may vary depending on the space available at the trial location.

Exteriors: The exterior search area (30 by 30 metres) must be outdoors and may be demarcated by existing boundaries such as a fence, trees, shrubs, or other natural features, or it may be demarcated by boundary markers. Searches will continue under variable weather and wind conditions for as long as the safety of participating dogs and persons is not in question.

Vehicles: The vehicle search will typically entail the use of 2 - 3 cars or SUVs, but may include any means of transport with at least two wheels.

NOSEWORK LEVEL 3

Up to three hides per element, which can be any of the target odours.

Four elements: containers (36), interiors (up to 4 rooms), exteriors (50 x 50 m), vehicles (3 – 5; may include 2-wheeled vehicles).

NW3 Element Setup

No hide placements should be visible to handlers (for example, targets for the container element are placed inside the containers). Hides should be placed within reasonable reach of the dogs entered at the trial. Hides may be placed slightly deeper into recesses or a short distance above nose height. There should be no barriers preventing dogs from accessing the hides but there may be obstacles that require problem solving from the dog to navigate to the source/hide. Trial organisers may run separate divisions for small dogs and medium to large dogs if they are able and willing to do so.

Containers: 36 boxes or other containers of variable size and shape can be randomly placed or organized in more complex layouts, such as spirals, for example. There is no stipulated minimum distance between containers.

Interiors: The interior search area may comprise up to a maximum of four rooms. It may be continuous or separate and may include one blank area. Search area size may vary depending on the space available at the trial location.

Exteriors: The exterior search area (50 by 50 metres) must be outdoors and may be demarcated by existing boundaries such as a fence, trees, shrubs, or other natural features, or it may be demarcated by boundary markers. The area does not have to be any particular shape and may include varied terrain. Searches will continue under variable weather and wind conditions for as long as the safety of participating dogs and persons is not in question.

Vehicles: The vehicle search for NW3 will be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 vehicles. A vehicle will usually be a car or SUV but may be any means of transport with at least two wheels.

REMINDER

CNESA encourages all members to simply enjoy being with your dog during trials. Although nerves can take over under time pressure, your dog doesn't know they're running in a competition and will love you regardless of finding hides, box smashing, being a clown, or barking at a judge. Have fun!