

Santa Clara Dog Training Club

ScentWork Classes and Progression

Scent Work is a fun sport based on work done by real-world detection dogs. Instead of locating drugs or explosives, Scent Work uses four essential oils – birch, anise, clove, and cypress – to find different target scents that can be hidden anywhere. The role of the handler is not to direct, but to work together as a team. The dog learns to communicate with the handler where the scent is located. The dog learns how to tell the handler that scent has been found, even if there are distractions such as toys and food. This is a wonderful way to build confidence, is great for stimulating your dog's mind, and is enjoyed by all dogs whether young or old.

Beginning ScentWork I & II

Prerequisite: A desire to play & bond with your dog.

This is an introductory class for teams to explore the foundations of Scent Work. Teams will learn important foundational skills in Scent Work through shaping the behaviors, developing a dog's drive to scent, recognizing behavior changes when the dog is on odor, reward timing & methodology, and leash handling. Dogs will be introduced to the odors used by AKC and other trialing organizations and practicing beginning searches in this class. *This class is usually repeated.*

To advance into Novice/Intermediate Scent Work, dogs must demonstrate recognition of more than one odor, and handlers must demonstrate the ability to recognize & reward the change in behavior when the dog is on odor.

Please bring to class lots of "high-value" treats, IN TREAT POUCHES, as well as a flat buckle, collar, or harness. Leashes should be easy to take on and off, and at least 6 feet in length.

ScentWork Level 3 - Novice/Intermediate

Prerequisite: Beginning ScentWork I & II or equivalent, and dogs should recognize more than one odor.

This class is intended for dogs who are on odor and/or pairing. Dogs in this class should recognize odor and want to improve their skills in AKC Scent Work and other trialing organizations. Teams will work on improving their skills in change of behaviors, reward timing, leash handling, handler body movement, and drive to odor. *This class is usually repeated.*

To advance into Intermediate/Advanced, dogs must demonstrate recognition of all odor scents used by AKC Scent Work and other trialing organizations. Handlers must have the ability to recognize and reward the change in behavior when the dog is on odor.

Please bring to class lots of "high-value" treats IN TREAT POUCHES, a crate, as well as a flat buckle, collar, or harness. Leashes should be easy to take on and off, at least 10 feet in length.

ScentWork Level 4 - Intermediate/Advanced

Prerequisite: ScentWork Level 3 Novice/Intermediate or equivalent.

Teams will learn to identify and indicate specific scents used by AKC and other organizations.. Team handling and proficiency with handler body movement, alert recognition, and timing will be refined. Proficiency with these techniques will lead to AKC Scent Work and other trialing organization titles. *This class is usually repeated.*

Please bring to class lots of “high-value” treats IN TREAT POUCHES, as well as a flat buckle, collar, or harness. Leashes should be easy to take on and off, and at least 10 feet in length, and a crate for your dog.