

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

No prerequisites, just a desire to play and bond with your dog.

This class is an introductory class for teams to explore the foundations of scentwork. In this class teams will learn important foundational skills in scentwork through shaping the behaviors, developing a dog's drive to scent, recognizing behavior changes when the dog is on odor, and rewarding success. The handler will learn to interact and handle their dogs using "high value" rewards. One odor (birch) will be introduced in this class.

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.

Beginning Scentwork II

Prerequisite: Beginning I foundations course or equivalent.

This class is for teams that are familiar with the basic foundations of searching for a "high value" treat, and the recognition of at least one odor. Teams will work on the development of alert behaviors, reward timing and 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. Dogs must demonstrate recognition of odor, and handlers develop the ability to recognize and reward the change in behavior when the dog is on odor in order to move on to the Novice/advanced scentwork class. *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 6 feet in length.

Scentwork Novice/Intermediate

Prerequisite: Beginning Scentwork II or equivalent, dogs should recognize odors

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 Scentwork 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. Dogs must demonstrate recognition of all odor scents used by AKC Scentwork and other trialing organizations. Handlers must have the ability to recognize and reward the change in behavior when the dog is on odor in order to move on to the intermediate/advanced scentwork class. This class is usually repeated

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.

Scent Work Intermediate/Advanced:

Prerequisite: Scentwork 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 scentwork 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.