

National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC®
Official NACSW™
ODOR RECOGNITION TESTS

Odors Tested: Birch, Anise, Clove

Date: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Test Site Hours:

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

AM session: 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM

AM Check-in time: 8:30 AM

PM session: 1:30 PM – 4:45 PM

PM Check-in time: 1:00 PM

Test Location: Gentle Touch Pet Training, 173 Buckley Rd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Test Host: Gentle Touch Pet Training

Test Host Contact Info: Jennifer Nowell, nwtrials@gentlepets.com

Test Secretary: Lisa Nichols, nwtrials@gentlepets.com

Certifying Official: DARCY LARKIN, CNWI

Judge: JENNIFER NOWELL, CNWI

Entry Cost: \$35 per odor

Number of Entries: 110

One dog per handler per odor.

To keep groups small at this time, we are splitting the ORT into two groups. One group will run in the morning and one in the afternoon

ORT ENTRY INFORMATION

Opening Date: MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025 at 9:00 AM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME.

Entries Close: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 at 5:00 PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME or When entry limits have been met

Second Dog Policy: We are not able to accommodate more than one dog per handler at this test.

Entry Method: Entries will be made through entry link:

Entry Requirements

A Qualified Entry is one that meets all the following criteria:

1. Complete entry during the specified entry time frame.
2. The Handler is a NACSW member for the 2025-2026 membership year (8/1/25- 7/31/26).
3. The Dog is registered with the NACSW.
4. Dogs participating in an Odor Recognition Test (ORT) must be at least six months of age.

For Exhibit Only Dogs (FEO): Dogs running FEO are not eligible to receive titles. FEO results will not be included in the posted ORT results. If space remains after all qualified entries are accommodated on 9/5/25, then we will offer spaces for those who wish to run a dog (FEO). Dogs may only run FEO in odors that they are *not* already registered for.

For information on how to register or become a member go to www.NACSW.net

Trial Eligibility and ORTs

The ORT Title must be earned at least 14 days before a trial opening date to be eligible for the first draw period.

All odors must be passed in order to earn the ORT title. It is not required that they all be passed at the same test.

Notification

Acknowledgement of entry acceptance/confirmation, will be made by email when entries are processed for those handlers that provide an email address. Your payment receipt and notification are confirmation of your completed entry.

Basic Description of the Test

To successfully pass an ORT a dog must identify the location of the target odor, and the handler must correctly call an "alert" within a **two minute 30 second (2:30)** time period. The Odor Recognition Test consists of a drill type exercise which requires 12 closed boxes typically set up in a pattern of two rows, spaced a **minimum of 36" apart**. The ORT is conducted on leash. Complete information can be obtained on the NACSW website. Handlers may test on all 3 odors at the same event.

*All exhibitors should obtain and review a copy of the **NACSW K9 NOSE WORK® RULE BOOK**. You may get it from their website: www.NACSW.net*

No dog will be given more than one space in the same odor test at a single event.

CANCELLATION POLICY

The following cancellation policy applies:

- For cancellation of entries on or before 5:00 PM 9/8/25 -Full refund minus a \$10 processing fee.
- For cancellation of entries between 5:00 PM 9/8/25 and before 5:00 PM 9/18/25– Full refund minus a \$10 processing fee if the host fills your space. No refund will be issued if the host doesn't fill your space. If the space is filled with a discounted or free entry, you will receive a refund dependent on the income from the replacement entry.
- For cancellation of entries after 5:00 PM 9/18/25 – 50% of the trial entry fee will be refunded if the host fills your space. No refund will be issued if the host doesn't fill your space. If the space is filled with a discounted or free entry, you will receive a refund dependent on the income from the replacement entry.

All cancellations must be emailed to nwtrials@gentlepets.com

Entry fees shall not be refunded if a dog or handler is absent, disqualified, or excused by the NACSW official or judge.

Revised 12/6/24

This cancellation and refund policy applies to handlers that must withdraw for any reason including but not limited to injury, illness, emergency, and personal or work-related reasons.

If the event cannot take place or be completed by reason of fire, civil disturbances, an Act of God, public emergency, or any other cause beyond the control of the event organizers, then the event host will make their best effort to provide partial refunds after recouping their expenses.

LOCATION DETAILS

ADA Site Specific Conditions

The test will be held inside the training center. The surface is textured vinyl flooring. The parking area is road base (gravel). The main entrance is from the back of the building with stairs. We have a ramp available to enter the building from the front and limited parking in front. If you need this accommodation, please let nwtrials@gentlepets.com know.

Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, these conditions may be modified at the last minute.

Modeled after real-life detection work, NACSW events are held in many different locations, with a variety of terrain, under varying weather conditions. Dogs and handlers need to be able to safely negotiate a variety of surfaces, including, but not limited to, tile, linoleum, carpeting, gravel, asphalt, uneven surfaces, and slippery footing. Handlers should be prepared to deal with a variety of weather conditions, including heat, cold, rain and snow. Events frequently require covering extensive distances to get to and from the parking area to each of the search areas and generally require that this be done across natural, uneven surfaces. Handlers should be prepared for physical demands and must be able to navigate the terrain with their dog accordingly. Handlers should expect to spend most of the day outside or in their vehicles as there are rarely indoor crating options at events. Please be prepared for you and your canine partner to deal with all of these varying environmental challenges. Handlers should familiarize themselves with potential regional risks and health concerns that may affect themselves or their dogs. Handlers agree that they are entering this event at their own risk.

Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, the details below may need to be modified at the last minute.

Parking

The parking lot is small with no extra space between vehicles. Lot is dirt/gravel with no shade available.

RV Parking

The parking lot is small and can't handle vehicles that take up more than one standard parking space. Large RVs can't be accommodated. Please contact the Test Host Contact/Secretary if you are unsure about parking.

Running Vehicles or Generators in the parking lot

Example: Running your vehicles or generators in the parking lot is allowed at this event as long as you have permission from your neighbors or are willing to park away from others.

Reactive Dog Parking

Example: There will be reactive dog parking at this event for those who wish to park in this area, however the parking is tight and there will not be separate potty areas or warm up boxes.

Unentered Dogs

Unentered dogs must remain in the handler's vehicle during the event day. There will be ample potty areas, but unentered dogs should not be allowed to "play", exercise, or train on the event grounds.

Facility/Site Prohibitive Restrictions (e.g., smoking, firearms, alcohol, drugs, video)

Revised 12/6/24

No smoking, firearms, alcohol, or drugs are allowed on site.

Hotels

A list of area hotels is available here: <https://www.gentlepets.com/slo-dog-friendly-lodging>

DOG INFORMATION

Dog Policies

- All dogs must always be on a 6' leash when not searching. NO flexi-leashes while not participating in a search.
- Reactive and/or spatially challenged dogs should wear a red bandana (to be provided by the dog's handler) to help signal others that the dog needs extra space from other dogs.
- Dogs will be toileted in designated areas and handlers must pick up and dispose of waste.
- Dogs and handlers must stay in designated areas to avoid contaminating search space, interrupting a search, or from viewing any part of the search.
- Handlers should expect to keep their dogs confined in a crate or vehicle when not searching. The logistics of an event typically do not allow for dogs to hang out on leash in between searches. Handlers should plan to provide their own shade using canopies or shade cloths.
- Refer to location details (above) for information on unentered dogs.

Females in Season

Females in season will be allowed to run wearing "pants" at the very end of the day after all other dogs have tested. Handlers with females in season should park and toilet their dogs away from the other dogs if the location logistics permit. Handlers must email nwtrials@gentlepets.com so plans can be made for the dog.

OTHER INFORMATION

COVID-19 Information

Event attendees are required to adhere to the NACSW [COVID-19 Event Guidelines and Rules](#)
In addition to those guidelines the following changes and guidelines are in effect for this test due to COVID-19.

There are currently no travel or mask restrictions for this area.

If there are any significant changes or updates after the draw period, handlers will be notified via email. Handlers are responsible for staying up to date on any jurisdictional requirements for their home location as well as the event location including any travel guidance.

ADA Requests

If you are an individual with a disability and would like to request accommodation(s), please email ADA@nacsw.net. Please include your name, ORT date, ORT host name, and your requested accommodation(s).

Rules

Complete rules are available at www.NACSW.net. **It is the responsibility of each handler to read and understand the current NACSW™ Rule book prior to participating in a NACSW event.**

Liability

By registering for the event, the handler hereby assumes all risks of, and responsibility for, accidents and/or damage to her/himself or to her/his property or to others **or the property of others**, resulting from the actions of her/his dog. The handler expressly agree that the NACSW, GENTLE TOUCH PET TRAINING, SON CARE FOUNDATION and its assignees or any other person, or persons, of said groups, shall not be held liable personally, or collectively, under any circumstances, for injury, and/or damage to her/himself, for loss, injury, **or damage** to property, whether due to

uncontrolled dogs or negligence of any member of said groups, or any other cause, or causes. The handler also agrees to assume all financial liability that may be incurred by the NACSW, **GENTLE TOUCH PET TRAINING, SON CARE FOUNDATION, and its assignees or any other person, or persons, of said groups** due to the actions of themselves or their dogs regardless of the cause.

Sportsmanship

All handlers and spectators are expected to follow the rules of the NACSW and demonstrate good sportsmanship. This includes making sure the hide placements are unknown to the handler prior to searching and kept secret from other handlers. Please do not discuss hide placement or any details of a dog's performance that may provide information or clues to other handlers or may be overheard.

Results

During the odor re-sets, the official results sheet will be brought out to the parking area for handlers to photo or review. We recommend you verify your results on the official results sheet and let your host or judge know if you have any questions regarding your results.

Spectators

Spectating opportunities may be limited to just family of handlers.

Spectators are reminded that the hide placements must not be discussed, nor should they speak with any handlers about what they saw until after the event is complete.

No dogs will be allowed in the spectator area. No unentered dogs with spectators are allowed at the event.

An adult accompanying a minor must be present during the searches.

Everyone at the site must sign the waiver provided by the host and comply with all event requirements.

Handlers are not allowed to watch the searches at any time.

Videotaping and Photography

If the site allows public video to be taken, handlers may wear visible head or chest cameras to record their searches. You will not be allowed extra time at the start line to get your camera functioning. Please be sure it is ready to go prior to arriving at the search area. At ORTs, handlers may bring a spectator to video or photograph their searches. Videos may not be made public until completion of the event day.

At the host's discretion, a photographer and/or video service may be present during the event to offer photos and/or videos for sale to the handlers. Professional Video &/or Photography service. Details will be available at check in.

Emergency Veterinary Hospital

The closest emergency veterinarian(s) to the event location:

Atascadero Pet Hospital and Emergency Center

9575 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422

805.466.3880

24 hours

OR

Central Coast Pet Hospital and Emergency

1558 W.Branch, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

805.489.6573

24 hours

Questions

All Test related questions, contact Jeni Nowell, nwtrials@gentlepets.com

Details regarding check-in time and briefing will be sent approximately 1 week before the ORT.