**Canine Association of WA Inc Submissions re**

**Proposals for Review of the Rules for the Conduct of Tracking Dogs 2022**

**SUBMISSION 1**

**Current Rule**

Tests 2 & 3 A minimum of one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass

Tests 4,5,6,7,8 A minimum of two articles must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

**Proposed Amendment**

Test 2 & 3 – There will be 3 articles on the track. If one or more are indicated - grading given by the judge will reflect this. If NO article is indicated by the dog, then a downgrade of no higher than a “Pass” should be recorded against the dog

Tests 4-8 - There will be 3 articles on the track. If one or more are indicated – grading given by the judge will reflect this. If NO articles are indicated by the dog, then a downgrade of no higher than a “Pass” shall be recorded against the dog.

**Rationale**

The introduction to our sport of Tracking says: “The tests should be as close as possible to a life-like situation, where a dog is used to find a missing person and therefore the test should be as realistic as possible while demonstrating the dog’s willingness and enthusiasm to follow a specific scent.”

We have seen several dogs which keep to the track but have no interest in the articles as they are more focused on the objective of finding the lost person. These dogs fail because of this ruling.

We consider a dog which is so resolute in its pursuit of the tracklayer to the exclusion of identifying articles, should still be rewarded for its performance and success in finding the tracklayer.

While acknowledging a dog which finds the required number of articles is performing the task to the current rules better and will therefore achieve a higher grade, we consider the other dog which achieves the outcome of finding the tracklayer but misses the articles, can be awarded the lower grading of ‘Pass’.

A dog that does not find any articles can only obtain a grading of no higher than a “Pass”.

**Canine Association of WA Inc Submissions re**

**Proposals for Review of the Rules for the Conduct of Track & Search Dogs 2022**

**SUBMISSION 1**

**Current Rule**

**TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD) Test 1**

The dog is required to track and search for a known person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces. The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction. The start marker will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the start marker, the Tracklayer will place one (1) of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the start marker, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness.

The dog must then track and search for and locate the lost person or the location of the finish article.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track will be one (1) hour and the maximum two (2) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be 2 articles placed on the track. A minimum of one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

**Proposed Amendment**

Incorporate the Diversion from Track 2 into Track 1

The main Tracklayer shall follow a track accompanied by the diversion Tracklayer. The diversion Tracklayer will accompany the main Tracklayer for not less than thirty (30) metres from the start and leave no closer than thirty (30) metres from the first change of direction while the main Tracklayer continues on the tracks.

**TRACK AND SEARCH DOG (TSD) Test 3**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

At least 25% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 3 to 5 changes of direction.

Approximately 30 minutes after the main Tracklayer has commenced the track, the first part of the track will be re-walked by a diversion Tracklayer. The diversion Tracklayer will re-walk the track for not less than thirty (30) metres from the start and leave no closer than thirty (30) metres from the first change of direction.

The start marker and all other flags indicating the direction of the track, up to the point where the diversion Tracklayer makes their turn; will be left in position by the main Tracklayer. The diversion tracklayer will remove the start marker and all other flags up to the point where the main Tracklayer has continued on. The starting line flags will remain.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate. The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line, open the container if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track; at least one article must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

**Proposed Amendment**

Previous Track 3 is now Track 2

Track 4 is now Track 3 with incorporating elements from the previous Track 4 for a title.

**TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX) Test 4**

The dog is required to track and search for an unknown person who has walked a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone, roads, paved surfaces or similar.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The Track will have 4 to 6 changes of direction.

This track should start in a contaminated point such as a road-end. If the area is not subject to foot traffic, two deliberate fresh cross tracks are to be laid by unknown Tracklayers who should cross the track just prior to the dog and handler working the track.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting line, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting line, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must search for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching in harness with lead attached. When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog, if free quartering, must be stopped sufficiently to allow the tracking lead to be fastened onto the harness. The dog must then follow the track to its conclusion

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid. There will be 2 articles placed on the track at least one must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass.

The Tracklayer or the location of the finish article must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

**Proposed Amendment**

**TRACK AND SEARCH DOG EXCELLENT (TSDX) Test 4 [Urban Day Track]**

The dog is required to track and search for a KNOWN person who has walked a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

The track should be laid utilising any and all structures on site to ensure that dogs are able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures. Tracks may be laid in close proximity to buildings and fences.

At least 80% of the track must be on non-vegetated surfaces. The track will have 4 to 6 changes of direction.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the handler e.g. a residential gateway, front door or car door. The track should not cross a main road.

Every care should be taken when working the dog in traffic and to shorten the lead if necessary, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

The dog should work regardless of any distractions.

At least thirty (30) metres before the starting point, the Tracklayer will place one of their scented articles in a clean sealable bag. They may place this bag in a clean, unscented, individual air-tight container supplied by the Judge or their delegate.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently, take the Handler and dog approximately thirty (30) metres from the starting point, open the container, if used. The scented article is removed by the Handler, who is then free to start tracking.

The dog in harness with lead attached will search for the track. When the dog has indicated to the Handler that it has located the track, the dog must then follow the track to its conclusion.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be two (2) hours and the maximum four (4) hours from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The Tracklayer or finish article must be indicated at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

Track 5 remains the same.

**Rationale**

Track & Search is now an established separate discipline to Tracking. In most of the titles within Track & Search, there is a similarity in the grouping of the tests within titles. E.g. Track & Search Dog

Tests 1 to 3 all have elements of using varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar. They then have graduating challenges from test 1 to 3.

Tests 7 & 8 for Track & Search Champion have similar requirements of both being 1000m in length, both 5-7 changes of direction and both have the 2-minute stop. The obvious difference being one is day-time and one night time.

Tests 9 & 10 for Track & Search Grand Champion have similar requirements of 1200m in length, both 6-8 changes of direction, both have in-car sections with the test 10 having the more challenging 300m in car and 2 changes of direction and is the night test.

Therefore, we consider the 3 tests within the Track & Search Dog Excellent title should be more similar with all being urban tracks as opposed to one varied surfaces which may include, but are not limited to, vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar, and then onto concrete, bitumen/tar or other sealed surfaces to the other 2 tests.

Considering this we consider the format and challenges in the current tests 2 – 4 would be suitable for inclusion in the TSD title and dispense with the current test 1.

The proposed new test 4 would then be the introduction to urban tests, with a known tracklayer in the test 4 to introduce the dogs to a new environment but a familiar scent.

**Submission 2**

**Current Rule:**

Tests 1, 2, 3, 4

There will be 2 articles placed on the track at least one must be indicated by the dog to obtain a pass

**Proposed Amendment**

There will be 2 articles placed on the track. If one or more are indicated – grading given by the judge will reflect this. If neither of the articles are indicated, then a grading of no higher than a “Pass” can be obtained by the dog to pass.

Rationale:

The introduction to our sport of Tracking says: *‘The idea of tracking trials is to encourage dogs to make use of their strongest faculty by emulating as closely as possible, the seeking and finding of a missing person while acknowledging that in the interests of a fair assessment, the tracks cannot be aimless wanderings more likely to characterise the trail of a lost person nor include the possible machinations of one deliberately trying to deceive any following dog.* *In all other ways sight should never be lost that it is a person being followed and every aspect of the track must relate to a person and, in the case of articles, must be items of personal possession.*’

We have seen several dogs which keep to the track but have no interest in the articles as they are more focused on the objective of finding the lost person. These dogs fail because of this ruling.

We consider a dog which is so resolute in its pursuit of the tracklayer to the exclusion of identifying articles, should still be rewarded for its performance and success in finding the tracklayer.

While acknowledging a dog which finds the required number of articles is performing the task to the current rules better and will therefore achieve a higher grade, we consider the other dog which achieves the outcome of finding the tracklayer but fails to indicate the articles, can be awarded the lower grading of ‘Pass’.