



DETECTION DOG TRIALS

Detection Dog Trials Rules

Entries

- I. To be eligible to qualify at a trial, you must be able to provide your DDT membership number, you can become a member here: <https://www.detectiondogtrials.com/plans-pricing>
- II. You may only enter one dog per level per trial. *You
may enter 2 or more dogs at the same level providing they don't run in the same elements. So if the trial is offering 4 elements then you can enter 2 dogs in 2 elements each, the trial host must approve this, so you must email the host to confirm before entering.
- III. Any breed may enter a trial, this includes mixed breeds.
- IV. Competitors must advise the host of any other odours the dog is trained on, as well as the odour they are competing on.
- V. Teams may not switch run times unless they are running on the same odour and this has been approved by the host.
- VI. We welcome nervous or reactive dogs but please be aware that you will have 2 judges in the search area with you, they can give the dog space but need to be able to see the dog work and indicate. Please also be aware of the safety of those around you. The host reserves the right to ask you to leave the trial venue if they feel that the safety or welfare, of you, your dog, or other people or dogs is an issue.
- VII. Bitches in season/heat may run at the end of the day where odour placement allows. This is however discretion of the host so please inform them with as much notice as possible if your bitch comes into season/heat prior to a trial. If the host cannot accommodate your bitch in that trial, you would receive a credit to enter a trial on a later date.
- VIII. Your dog must be microchipped OR be registered to enter a trial or become a member of DDT, you may be asked to provide proof of this at or when entering a trial. All breeds may enter, including mixed.

Trials

- I. You may not visit a trial venue with your dog less than a week before a trial.
- II. **Weather** – it is at the judges discretion as to whether a trial goes ahead due to extreme weather conditions, the safety and welfare of the dogs and handlers will be the priority.
- III. No odour may be placed by competitors at a trial, you may bring an odour tin for your dog to nose touch for example, but no odour may be placed anywhere at the venue, including on competitors vehicles. Hosts may set up a practice area but this is not compulsory.
- IV. No correctional equipment may be worn in a trial. A flat collar is fine, a harness is also fine. Just no training aids.
- V. Dogs may work on or off line, unless specified by the host prior to the trial. If venue circumstances change, the host reserves the right to request dogs work on line on the day of the trial.
- VI. You may reward in the search area with a toy or food. The hide may not be interfered with and food must not be crumbly or dropped on the floor.
- VII. If a dog urinates or defecates in the search area, the judge may either minus points under Obedience to search, or disqualify the dog if it is considered to be "marking" this is likely to be judged more harshly indoors than out. The judge may also pause a run whilst the area is cleaned.
- VIII. For dogs running in an area after a dog has urinated/defecated in that area, any interest from that dog will be ignored when it comes to scoring, this is to make it fair for all as dogs running prior would not have had the distraction. The judge will usually inform the competitor of the area if they feel it is needed.

- IX. If a judge feels the dog is being harshly handled or is not happy in the environment, they have the right to end the run and ask the competitor to leave the trial.
- X. If a judge feels that the dog is in pain, they have the right to end the run and ask the competitor to leave the trial, or pause the run to discuss.
- XI. Final decision is the judges and arguing it will result in automatic disqualification.
- XII. If a team is disqualified, their run stopped or asked to leave the trial, for any of the reasons above, or another reason that makes the judge feel the need to do it, then no refunds will be given.

Levels

- I. Once competing at a level, you may not move back down to the lower level.
- II. You may move up a level at any time, it is decided by the handler.
- III. You may start competing at DDT at any level.
- IV. You may enter any level NFC regardless of the level you are running in.

Winning out

- PRELIM - If you win a Prelim trial OR score 75 points or above 3 times, you must move up to novice.
- NOVICE - If you win a Novice trial or score 75 points or above 5 times, you must move up to intermediate.

Prelim

- 5 minute search time (tier 1)
- You may ask for a time check at either or all of the below:
 - Half way
 - 1 min left
 - 30 seconds left
- Prelim hides will not be more than a meter off the floor.
- Hides will not be below floor level.
- The dogs will be able to get their nose to source.
- For hide specifications see 'Odours'

Novice

- 5 minute search time (tier 1)
- You may ask for a time check at either or all of the below:
 - Half way
 - 1 min left
 - 30 seconds left
- Novice will have 2 hides - one hide will be Prelim standard, the dog will be able to get to source, the hide won't be more than a meter off the floor and will not be below ground level.
- The second hide, the dog may not be able to get to source.
- Second novice hide - this hide won't be more than 2 meters off the ground. If the hide is deep - for example in a drawer or behind a barrier then it won't be more than 30cms deep - ie the dog will be able to get its nose within 30cms of the hide.
- Intermediate - 8 minutes search time (tier 1)
- You may ask for a time check at either or all of the below:
 - Half way
 - 4 mins left
 - 2 mins left
 - 1 min left
- Intermediate will have 1, 2 or 3 hides – Handlers do not know how many.
- Dogs may or may not be able to get to source on all hides. Hides will be no more than 3 meters above the dog.
- Hides will not be buried however they can be up to 20cms below floor level - an example of this would be in a drain grate.
- For deep hides - example in an open drawer or behind a barrier but with plenty of air flow, hides can be up to 50 cms away from the dogs nose.

- For concealed hides, for example, in a closed drawer or zipped suitcase, hides may be up to 20cms away from the dogs nose.

Elements

- Trials can have up to 4 elements per level, per trial.
- A competitor can enter as little or as many elements as they like.
- Each element will run with the rules and timings of that level, so for novice for example, each element will have 5 mins and 2 hides.
- There will be a winner and reserve per element and winners qualify for championships.
- Where there are only 2 elements, hosts may run the competitor in both of their elements consecutively with a 4 min break between. Usually though, all of element 1 will run, then all of element 2 and so on.
- Prices are discounted in the UK for multiple element entries: 1 Element = £25 – 2 Elements = £45 – 3 Elements = £65 – 4 Elements = £85

Odour preparation and placement

- Hosts should generally provide the odours, however Judges and Hosts may discuss this at the time of booking.
- If an odour is expensive, difficult to obtain or requires a license*, the competitor should provide this and the host should take this in to account when creating the running order, giving the competitor time to get the odour to the judge for preparation and placement. Where possible this needs to be given as pure odour, with the judge making up soaks if needed, this is to ensure as much as possible that there is no contamination or handler odour involved, as this could be an advantage to that team. If this isn't possible due to soak time required, then DDT protocols must be followed when preparing the odour.

* If an odour requires a licence, the host must have the licence as well as the competitor to be able to handle the odour.

- Odours should be kept as consistent as possible, so if you are using a shell (tin for example) then all odours ideally would be in the same shell. The same applies to soaks. With certain odours this isn't always possible but should be kept to when it can be.
- Equipment** – Jars for making up soaks should be makeup or powder jars that have a plastic mesh base for the cotton pad or odour to sit underneath. Tadd device or similar can also be used. As long as the soaks don't come into contact with the odour or pad.
- Soaks** - Cue tips/filter tips or adhesive felt pads (no more than 1.5cm across) see Amazon shopping list.
- Carrier** – Where a removable carrier is required, you can either use the tiny makeup/cream pots with the lid off but the inner holed layer in with odour under it, or the small metal tins with 3-5 holes in the top. Both are no more than 2cm across. See Amazon list.
- Oils** – a cotton pad should be placed in the jar with 1-3 drops of oil for indoor searches and 3-5 drops of oil for outdoor searches on it. Then the soaks placed in the jar no more than 16 hours and no less than 4hrs prior to an event. If a carrier is being used, then 1 drop for indoors and 2 drops for outdoors, on a cue tip in the carrier no less than 1hr and no more than 3hrs before the event is required.
- Where there are multiple hides in an area, they will not be placed closer than 3 meters to each other, 5 meters in an outside area. This doesn't count if there is a solid barrier between the hides that odour cannot pass through or around, for example if using multiple rooms, 2 odours may technically be closer together but in totally separate rooms.
- When placing odours, tiers are considered. So if a high hide is placed and you have 2 tiers, the higher tier would be placed slightly lower than the lower tier.

Odour Tiers

Tier 1	Tier 2 + 2 minutes	Tier 3 + 4 minutes
Birch oil	Kong	Pyrotechnics
Gun Oil	Conservation Type 1	Conservation Type 2
Clove	Tobacco	Digital Hardware/Sim
Anise	Narcotics Type 1	Narcotics Type 2
Cannabis	HR/Cadaver	Cash
Phseudo	Petrol	Bedbugs
Scentlogix	Explosives Type 1	Explosives Type 2

Type lists will be published on the website or please email to request them

Championships

Championships are held in January, the year following qualification. So all 2022 qualifiers went to January 2023 champs.

Prelim has 2 Preliminary Championships, one in August of that year and one in January of the following year, this is due to the speed dogs tend to move out of prelim into the higher levels.

Qualifying for August Prelim Championships ends 31st July. 1st August – 31st December qualify for January.

- If you qualify for the championship at any level and have moved up to a higher level before the championships are held, then you may still run at the level you were competing in when you qualified, providing you haven't also qualified at the higher level you are now running in.

Placings & Awards

DDT rosettes are a standard size and style, changes must be approved by your director.

Hosts may add their own prizes or trophies, this must not however be seen to be bribing entries, or to be in competition with other hosts and must be kept at a sensible level.

Placings

- 1st – 4th place in each element at each level per trial (1st place qualifies for annual championships).
- High Trial winner – the highest scoring dog over all levels and elements at each individual trial (winner qualifies for annual championships) An average is taken of the teams scores across all elements. So, 4 elements, all scores would be added together and divided by 4. The score you're left with is the score you use to determine High Trial winner.

Titles

- Diamond Title - A competitor at any level that scores 90 points or above wins the Diamond title. You may win up to 3 diamond titles in one year.
- Sapphire Title – A competitor that scores 75 points or more, 3 times in Prelim, or 5 times in Novice and Intermediate wins a Sapphire Title. An average is taken of the teams scores across all elements. So, 4 elements, all scores would be added together and divided by 4. The score you're left with is the score that counts towards the title. So, a team would have to score 75 points or more at 3 or 5 different trials to earn their title.
- Ruby Title – A competitor that wins a Prelim 3 times or Novice and Intermediate 5 times, wins a Ruby Title. An average is taken of the teams scores across all elements. So, 4 elements, all scores would be added together and divided by 4. The score you're left with is the score that counts towards the title. So, a team would have to win at 3 or 5 different trials to earn their title.

Best of Breed – Trials organised by a breed association may award a rosette for the highest placed of that breed.

Themed rosettes – If a host is running a themed trial, for example, Easter, Christmas, or Halloween, they may request themed rosettes which may incur an additional charge, this is to be discussed with your director.

Annual Awards:

Expedition Award – This is awarded to the most improved team or a team that has had an extremely successful trial season and really improved their training. Candidates for this award are submitted by judges and hosts by the end of December, before championships each year.

Summit Award - This is the average highest score throughout the year, so if a dog entered 2 trials and got 80 points and a dog entered 6 trials but scored a consistent 60 points, then that dog would win this award.

High Peak Award - The highest overall score throughout the year. - if there is a tie then the dog with the second highest score out of the group will win - for example if 2 dogs have 90 points each but dog 1 has 86 as its second highest score and dog 2 has 83 then dog 1 would get the award.

Espirit du corps - The passion and honour of the cause and a spirit within a team.

Judges and hosts submit their entries for this award by the end of December, before the championships each year.