

JUDGE'S TRAINING  
INFORMATION AND  
APPLICATION V1.0  
K9 NOSE WORK  
Level 1



Approved By:	Marion Brand	Implemented:	V1.0 – November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2020
Review Due:	5 years or as changes occur	Reviewed On:	October 2020
NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION			

<b>1. OVERVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. THE K9 NOSE WORK® PHILOSOPHY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. WHAT TO EXPECT AS A K9 NOSE WORK LEVEL 1 JUDGE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN AN ACSW JUDGE</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1 PREREQUISITES	4
4.2 WHY SOMEONE MAY NOT BE SELECTED	4
4.3 APPLYING	4
<b>5. JUDGING OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 THE PROCESS	4
<b>6. SELECTION CRITERIA</b>	<b>5</b>
6.1 BASIC CRITERIA	5
6.2 ROLE AWARENESS	5
6.3 IF ACCEPTED	5
<b>7. COURSE OUTLINE</b>	<b>6</b>
7.1 MODULE 1 – INTRODUCTION	6
7.2 MODULE 2 – CONTAINERS	6
7.3 MODULE 3 – INTERIORS	6
7.4 MODULE 4 – VEHICLES	7
7.5 MODULE 5 – EXTERIORS	7
7.6 MODULE 6 – THE PAPERWORK	7
7.7 MODULE 7 – EXTENDED LEARNING	7
<b>8. QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS</b>	<b>8</b>
8.1 COST OF COURSE	8
8.2 TIME TO COMPLETE	8
8.3 HOW WILL YOU LEARN	8
8.4 SUBMISSIONS	8
8.5 GROUP SIZE	8
8.6 PLATFORM	8
8.7 TIMELINE	8
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<b>9</b>
THE APPLICATION FORM:	9

## 1. OVERVIEW

The ACSW are training more Judges to facilitate the growth of K9 Nose work in Australia. With the number of trials growing we need more Judges to meet the demand and keep costs down, so we would like to offer qualified individuals the chance to apply to be a part of the program. We are, therefore, excited to continue our ACSW Judges Training Program to offer more individuals the opportunity to become Certified Judges for the ACSW.

The ACSW adheres to the NACSW vision of 'a world where every dog and dog lover find joy and a deeper bond through the activity and sport of K9 Nose Work®'. Our competing teams vary greatly. Trials are tailored to welcome pet dogs and their handlers. The teams you judge will vary widely in drive, temperament, and physical ability. Therefore, those wishing to become ACSW Judges must consider the vision and philosophy that drives K9NW. The ACSW require all of their officials commit to this philosophy at all ACSW sanctioned events too.

ACSW L1 Judges are approved to Judge ORTs, NWL1 Trials and NWL1 Element Trials, by the ACSW, based on professional detection experience and/or training as an ACSW Level 1 Judge, combined with extensive experience within the sport and ACSW competitions.

The role of a judge is an important one for the ACSW. The impact you may have on the partnership between handler and their dog is significant, thus your words, comments and attitude greatly effect the Trial experience. We trust that you will bring all of your skills, professionalism, and love of dogs to help create a wonderful trial experience for everyone.

## 2. THE K9 NOSE WORK® PHILOSOPHY

The ACSW follows the NACSW philosophy which is to always put the dog first. It is why the NACSW Founders developed K9 Nose Work®. To practice K9 Nose Work® is to commit to supporting your dog, listening to your dog, and trusting your dog, and to always keep it fun.

We believe that dogs are at their happiest when we allow them to learn on their own terms, using their natural abilities, especially their amazing sense of smell.

We believe that the human-canine bond deepens when people experience obedience-free communication with their dogs.

The K9 Nose Work® philosophy is to embrace the journey and to enjoy every moment of learning for you and your dog.

## 3. WHAT TO EXPECT AS A K9 NOSE WORK LEVEL 1 JUDGE

The judge is responsible for determining if the team has correctly made all the calls for that element according to the CO's specifications and for making decisions relating to faults and conduct during the actual competition search.

Once you have been approved or trained as an ACSW Level 1 Judge, you will be sent documentation, the Judging Guidelines for conducting ACSW Trials and ORTs, which explain further how the standard increases with each level. Please review these guidelines as they will have details that clarify the scoring and placements for ACSW events. Trials will differ greatly from those who may have only had professional detection experiences and the documentation will provide assistance in bridging the gap.

## 4. WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN AN ACSW JUDGE

### 4.1 PREREQUISITES

What the ACSW is looking for in judges is a person who has trained, certified (CNWI, ANWI) and/or professionally handled a detection dog or has equivalent proficiency. Someone whose experience and training has provided an understanding of how scent works in different environments and conditions. A person who can judge each dog taking into consideration, the vision statement of the ACSW, which promotes a world where every dog and dog lover, finds joy and a deeper bond through the activity and sport of K9 Nose Work.

### 4.2 WHY SOMEONE MAY NOT BE SELECTED

We typically approve judges where and when there is a need, therefore, we may simply not need judges in your area. Most judges come through personal referral because they have become familiar with ACSW Trials. We also may not select a judge if they do not adequately meet our criteria or if information is found to be false or misrepresented.

The ACSW will review all submitted applications and reserves the right to select or reject applicants for any reason. We will be looking for several criteria including experience, familiarity with ACSW Trials, and overall fit in the program. Criteria may change as the program continues to develop.

### 4.3 APPLYING

The application submission is the first part of the process. After reviewing all applications, a group of up to 15 people will be shortlisted. Those shortlisted will be asked to participate in a conference call or Zoom interview with the Training Committee. All applicants will be advised of the outcome and successful applicants will be invited to complete the training. Certification is dependant on satisfactorily completing all homework tasks, the final exam and video submissions.

## 5. JUDGING OPPORTUNITIES

### 5.1 THE PROCESS

Judges are currently allocated by the ACSW based on the information provided in your application. It is hoped that the number of ORTs and Trials will increase steadily in each state to a level enabling the ACSW to follow the NACSW's protocol in the near future.

NACSW judges are hired by hosts as they schedule trials in a region. Most hosts hire judges in proximity to the trial location in an effort to minimize travel expenses. Requests for you to judge will vary based on the number of trials and the number of other approved officials in your area. The host will contact you directly, so it is important to ensure your contact details are always up to date.

Judges may only judge two consecutive times, for a trial host, within an 18-month period. However, you may judge for other hosts in the same region and may judge for the same host more than two times if they host many trials in a year (just not more than two consecutive times). Depending on the availability of judges in the area, dispensation from this rule may be requested.

Judges receive a recommended fee as outlined in the documents "Hosting an ORT, Hosting a Trial, Hosting an Element Trial" as seen on the ACSW web page. If interstate travel is required, all meals and accommodation along with travel expenses, will be paid by the host for accredited judges. The trial day for judges is roughly 8 hours long with a lunch break.

## 6. SELECTION CRITERIA

### 6.1 BASIC CRITERIA

The following are the preferred qualifications listed in order of preference. We recognise that the Covid-19 legislation has presented challenges and encourage applications despite not having met all criteria:

- Host an ACSW trial. (...anyone can host an ACSW event).
- 200 hours observing dogs search; can be combined as an instructor, a student or a volunteer at a trial.
- 100 hours setting hides, in person, for others either in or out of the class setting (this does not include online instruction or video review).
- volunteering at 3 ACSW events. (ORT/Element Trial/NW1 Trial)
- experience competing in an ACSW event.

### 6.2 ROLE AWARENESS

Prior to submitting your application, please review the following basic duties of being an ACSW Judge:

- travel by air, rail or drive, to trial locations.
- spend extensive time walking and standing during a trial weekend, at times over rough or uneven ground.
- be available the day before and after a trial, for travel.
- Judges in-training are responsible for their own expenses, including travel and lodging.
- comfortable with public speaking.
- able to work with hosts, CO, volunteers and competitors at trials.
- have a good understanding of the trial level
- stay current on ACSW trial rules.

### 6.3 IF ACCEPTED

Accepted participants will be expected to:

- pay for and travel to the designated location for on-sight training, subject to Covid-19 legislation.
- submit pertinent videos within a given period of time after the training.
- complete a written test.
- pay for and travel to assigned trials or mock trials for hands-on training (Length of time for this training will vary based on available assignment opportunities and trainee availability).
- in accordance with each states individual Covid-19 restrictions and limitations, be prepared to travel to trials to shadow a judge or mentor.
- Be flexible enough to adapt to changes in course presentation, as necessitated by Covid-19 legislation.
- participate in regular zoom meetings to insure you have the most current information

## 7. COURSE OUTLINE

The ACSW Level 1 Judges Training program will take place via Zoom unless covid restriction are relaxed and allow face to face meetings.

### 7.1 MODULE 1 – INTRODUCTION



### 7.2 MODULE 2 – CONTAINERS



### 7.3 MODULE 3 – INTERIORS



7.4 MODULE 4 – VEHICLES



7.5 MODULE 5 – EXTERIORS



7.6 MODULE 6 – THE PAPERWORK



7.7 MODULE 7 – EXTENDED LEARNING



## 8. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### 8.1 COST OF COURSE

The cost of the course will be \$300.00 AUD payable to the ACSW.

### 8.2 TIME TO COMPLETE

- The course is conducted over 6-7 sessions with additional time spent shadowing Official Judges at ORTs, Trials or mock trials
- You will have 14 days from the day of the last session to submit the Final Exam
- The videos will need to be submitted within 6 months of the day of the last session
- The course will take a minimum of 6 months to complete depending on the availability of ACSW events, including mock trials held for the purpose of providing participants with judging experiences.

### 8.3 HOW WILL YOU LEARN

- Attending all 7 Modules via Zoom.
- Group discussions
- Practicals
- Video examples
- Shadowing mentor judges
- Judging at an Official Trial/ORT with a supervising judge in attendance

### 8.4 SUBMISSIONS

- Participation in class discussions and forums
- You will have practical homework tasks along the way
- Final Exam
- Final submission of video examples
- Shadow Judge at 2-3 ACSW Trials, ORTs or mock trials
- Judge at an ACSW Trial, ORT or mock Trial with a supervising judge in attendance.

### 8.5 GROUP SIZE

Zoom groups will be limited so that internet integrity is maintained

### 8.6 PLATFORM

Computer, Tablet or smart phone will be needed for Zoom calls and submissions

### 8.7 TIMELINE

Applications close	December 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Notification of shortlist	February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021
Course Acceptance	March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021

## ATTACHMENTS

### THE APPLICATION FORM:

Name:

Address:

Phone No:

E-Mail:

Professional K9 Handler Certification/Qualifications:

No of Years Experience:

Agency/Agencies Worked For:

Most Recent Employment:

NACSW/ACSW Qualifications:

Do You Have Any Shelter Experience? Detail.

What Experience Have You Had Managing 'Reactive' Dogs?

What Do You Believe You Bring To The Activity and Sport of K9 Nose Work?:

What Three Significant Professional Development or Learning Experiences Undertaken In The Last Two Years Has Influenced You Most?:

Please Outline Your Role And Where, Your 200 Hours Of Observation was Completed:

Please Outline Your Role And How Your 100 Hours Of Personally Setting Hides Was Achieved:

What Experience Have You Had Competing At An ACSW Trial?

Please List the ACSW Trials/ORT You Have Volunteered At And Your Role:

Describe The Trial You Hosted (If you have) and List Three “Take Aways” From Your Experience:

***NB*** The ACSW will review all submitted applications and reserves the right to select applicants for any reason into this program. We will be looking for several criteria including experience, familiarity with ACSW Trials, and overall fit in the program. Criteria may change as the program continues to develop.

Please copy questions and paste into a MSWORD file

Then e-mail your completed application as a PDF file to:

[australiancaninescentwork@gmail.com](mailto:australiancaninescentwork@gmail.com)

With “Judges Training” in the subject line.