

HUNTER'S HEART

Types of Nosework Events

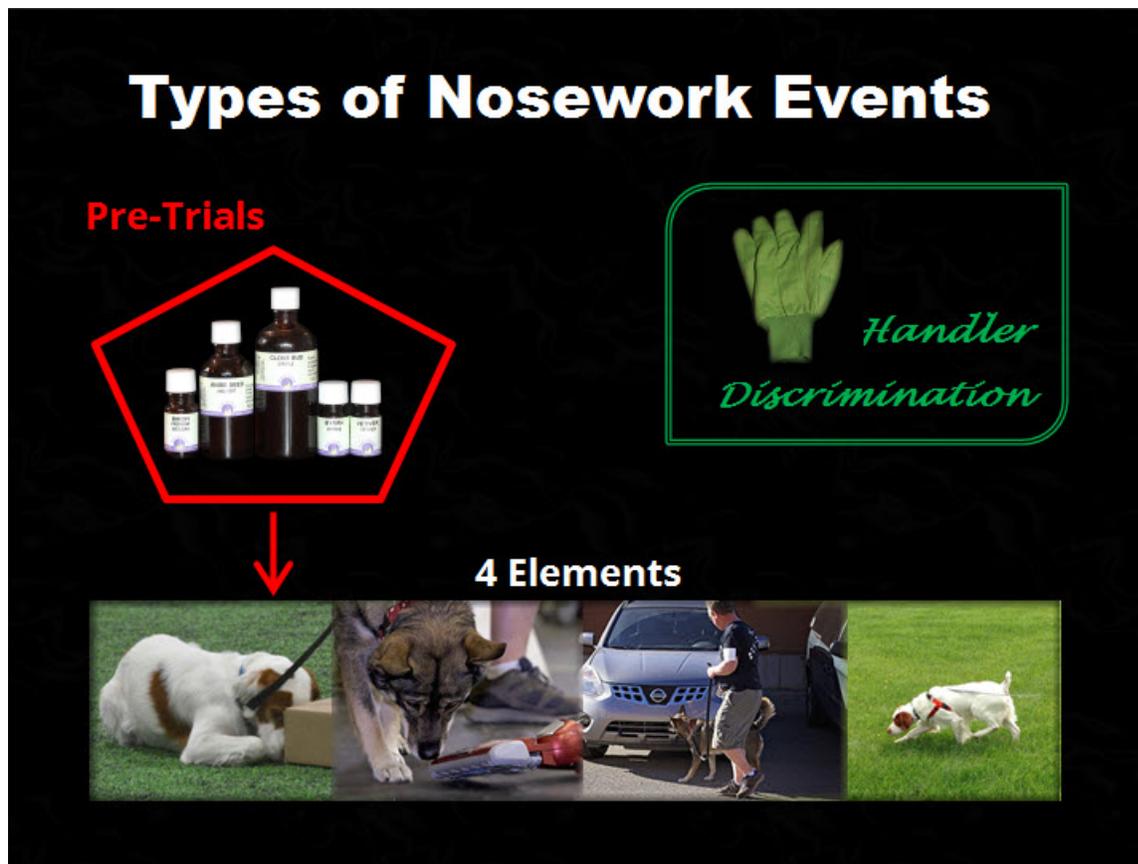
By Carla Simon, March 2016

PRE-TRIALS (1 pass required/title)

Before you compete in UKC Nosework Elements, your dog must pass a Pre-Trial. During the Pre-trial, your dog must search a row of 12 identical cardboard boxes, and you must identify which box contains the target odor. This is the easiest type of search. You only need to pass a Pre-Trial once.

LEVEL = ODOR

The level of competition (Novice, Advanced, Superior, etc.) determines the odor. In all Novice Pretrials and all Novice Elements, the target odor is Birch. In all Advanced searches, the odor is Anise. In the upper levels, additional odors are added.



ELEMENTS (2 passes required/title)

In UKC nosework competition, there are 4 types of searches, known as **Elements**:

HUNTER'S HEART

1. **Container-** The hide is inside a box. The dog searches a row of cardboard boxes.
2. **Interior Building-** The hide is secured inside, underneath, between or on top of objects inside a building. For example, you may search an office where the hide is taped under a chair.
3. **Vehicle-** The hide is secured on the outside of a vehicle e.g. on the front bumper. The hide is never under or inside the vehicle. More advanced searches include more vehicles, and different types of vehicles e.g. buggies, ATVs, or tractors.
4. **Exterior Area-** The search area is outdoors. Surfaces may include grass, gravel, leaves, snow, etc.

Because of changing wind and weather conditions, and the presence of animals such as bunnies and birds, outdoor searches are generally the most difficult type of search.

Each Element has unique rules, which are dependent on the level of competition (Novice, Advanced, Superior, etc.). To complete any Element title, the dog must pass twice. For example, to complete a Novice Container title, the dog needs to pass 2 Novice Container Searches. To complete a Novice Interior Title, the dog needs to pass 2 Novice Interior Searches.

EXAMPLES

So to recap, to compete in the Novice elements, the dog must first pass the Novice Pre-trial, using Birch. Once the dog passes the Novice Pre-trial once, he has completed his PTN (Pre-trial Novice) title.

All 4 Novice Elements (Container, Interior, Vehicle and Exterior) test Birch odor only. When the dog completes a title in all 4 Novice Elements, he earns the Novice Nosework (NN) Title. At that time, the team may continue to compete in Novice, but in the B Class, or the team may move up to the Advanced level.

To compete in the Advanced Elements (which test Anise), the dog must first pass the Advanced Pre-trial, using Anise. Once the dog passes the Advanced Pre-trial once, he has completed his PTA (Pre-trial Advanced) title.

HANDLER DISCRIMINATION (3 passes required/title)

Handler discrimination is a separate stream where the dog searches for the handler's scent (see below), rather than an essential oil. The handler gives their pre-scented cotton glove to the steward, who hides it inside a box. The dog searches a row of boxes and the handler must

HUNTER'S HEART

identify the box containing the glove with handler's scent. (To spectators, the search area looks very similar to Pretrials and novice container search.) To complete a Handler Discrimination title, the dog must pass 3 times. For example, when he passes Novice Handler Discrimination 3 times, he completes his NHD title, and may then move up to Advanced Handler Discrimination.

RESOURCES

Hunter's Heart Nosework Blog <https://noseworkblog.wordpress.com/>

United Kennel Club (UKC) Helpful

Links <https://noseworkblog.wordpress.com/2016/03/07/united-kennel-club-nosework-links/>

Requirements for Searches at Each Level (Summary Chart) <http://wp.me/p74GTg-3g>