

K9 Nose Work® Dictionary



Alert

Alert: (see also *In Odor*)

1. Loosely used to describe the dog's change in behavior when nearing the odor and their communication to the handler.
2. The term stated by competitors when their dog has made a final response.

Anise: One of the target odors used in K9 Nose Work. We use the essential oil, "Aniseseed" (aka *Pimpinella anisum*, NOT Star Anise, aka *Illicium verum*, which is botanically different.)

Birch: One of the target odors used in K9 Nose Work. We use the essential oil, Sweet Birch (aka *Betula Lenta*.)

Box Work: The game of working with boxes in teaching K9 Nose Work.

Box Drill: (see also *Container Search*) The exercise in class or competition of using only boxes to contain target odor, boxes may be arranged in many patterns. A drill may include other containers than boxes, such as luggage, cinder blocks, etc.



Box Work

Clove: One of the target odors used in K9 Nose Work. We use the essential oil, Clove Bud (aka *Eugenia Caryophyllata* or *Syzygium Aromaticum*.)



Container Search

Container Search: (also known as *Box Drill*) The exercise in class or competition of using only boxes to contain target odor, boxes may be arranged in many patterns. A drill may include other containers than boxes, such as luggage, cinder blocks, etc.

Crosswind: Wind is moving at an angle across the search area ahead of you. (You are not facing the wind, nor is the wind behind you.)

Crowding: Handler is encroaching on the search space of the dog. Especially noticeable in leash work where the handler is so close to the dog that they block the path to the odor.

Detail (or Detailing): Once the dog has done a broader search of the area, the area may be searched again in more detail. Sometimes the dog naturally does this on their own and sometimes the handler may step in to provide access to areas for the dog, or by using their body language to direct the dog to a specific area.

Distractors: Anything that the dog may need to be proofed off to insure reliability. This may include things such as toys, food, cotton swabs, etc.



Distractors

Downwind: The dog is downwind of the target odor. The dog is facing the wind and the target is in front of him. Even if the dog were facing the other direction, they would still be downwind of the target.



New Dawn Animal Behavior Center
11501A 47th St. N • Clearwater, FL 33762
727.415.1567 • ann@newdawnabc.com
newdawnabc.com

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Final
Response

Final Response: The dog's behavior that indicates to the handler that they have made a decision at the source of odor. This can be a sit, down, nose touch, paw touch, etc.

Fringing: The term describing the dog indicating or alerting when in odor, but not at the actual source of odor. The dog is at the outside (or fringe) of the scent cone.

Give the dog support: The dog may be close to the odor source but is lacking confidence, or experience to communicate to the handler. The handler may step in closer at this point to let the dog know they are on the right track.

General: The initial broad search done by the dog where he may catalog the environment and general location of odor before working to source.

Head Snap: As the dog's nose passes over and by the odor, they may suddenly appear to do a u-turn back towards the odor.



Head Snap

Hold your ground: Stand in one place while holding your dog back from leaving the area.

Hook 'em up: Leash your dog.

Hot Box: The box with the odor, toy, etc...or dirty food box.



In Odor

In Odor: A phrase used to describe the dog's change in behavior when nearing the odor and their communication to the handler. Sometimes referred to as alerting to the odor.

Lingering Odor: Airborne odor without a source.

Loose Leash: The handler should be holding the leash with no tension.

Marker: A word, or sound that signals to the dog that something they just did will be reinforced. A marker can be a verbal cue like "Yes!" or a clicker.



Marker

Odor Obedience: The term used to describe the dog's overriding desire to get to the source of odor.

Olfaction: The action or capacity of smelling. The sense of smell.

On Deck: Handler/dog teams that will be running after the current team. They should be ready to go and waiting their turn.



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Praise

Praise: Words of encouragement or attention/petting that your dog enjoys.

Productive Areas: Likely places where the dog might find odor. The dog has learned to explore these areas through hide placement.

Proofing: An advanced exercise to work on the dog's inherent odor obedience and ability to ignore other non-eventful, distractor odors/objects.



Put 'em up

Put 'em up (away): Take the dog away from the search area and back to their crate.

Residual Odor: Target odor molecules that have come in contact and remain in very small quantities.



Scent Cone/Scent Plume

Scent Cone/Scent Plume: The scent emanates from a source and has been described as moving out and away from the source in a cone-like shape. Technology has allowed us to view the actual scent molecules, and in actuality they move from the source like a plume of fire. The term scent cone, however, is still widely used.

Search Cue/Command: The cue given to the dog by their handler to begin searching.

Source: The actual location of the odor source, or item the dog is searching for.

Target Odor: The odor the dog should be trying to find. This may be a treat, toy, or essential oil in the case of Nose Work.



Target Odor

Trained Response: Also a final response, but at the highest competition level this is the trained behavior for which they have been continually rewarded. This behavior indicates the dog has made a decision that they are as close to the source as they can get.

Upwind: The dog is upwind of the target odor. The dog is facing the wind and the target odor is behind them. Even if the dog were facing the other direction he would still be upwind of the target.



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