



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL

Rules and Guidelines for the conduct of Track and Search Dog Trials

(Effective from 1st January 2009)

**Approved by the Australian
National Kennel Council 2008**

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the
Australian National Kennel Council**

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Dogs ACT
PO Box 815
DICKSON ACT 2602
Phone: (02) 6241 4404 Fax: (02) 6241 1129
Email: admin@dogsact.org.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Canine Association of Western Australia Inc
PO Box 1404
CANNING VALE WA 6970
Phone: (08) 9455 1188 Fax: (08) 9455 1190
Email: k9@cawa.asn.au

QUEENSLAND

Canine Control Council (Queensland)
PO Box 495
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006
Phone: (07) 3252 2661 Fax: (07) 3252 3864
Email: dogsqld@powerup.com.au

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Dogs NT
PO Box 37521
WINNELLIE NT 0821
Phone: (08) 8984 3570 Fax: (08) 8984 3409
Email: naca3@bigpond.com

NEW SOUTH WALES

Dogs NSW
PO Box 632
ST MARYS NSW 1790
Phone: (02) 9834 3022 Fax: (02) 9834 3872
Email: info@dogsnsw.org.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dogs SA
PO Box 844
PROSPECT EAST SA 5082
Phone: (08) 8349 4797 Fax: (08) 8262 5751
Email: info@dogssa.com.au

TASMANIA

Tasmanian Canine Association Inc
PO Box 116
GLENORCHY TAS 7010
Phone: (03) 6272 9443 Fax: (03) 6273 0844
Email: tca@iprimus.com.au

VICTORIA

Dogs Victoria
Locked Bag K9
CRANBOURNE VIC 3977
Phone: (03) 9788 2500 Fax: (03) 9788 2599
Email: office@dogsvictoria.org.au

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RULES

Subject	Page No.
Introduction	2
Decisions	2
Removal of the Dog	2
Withdrawal of Dog	2
Disqualification	3
Eligibility	3
Titles	3
Equipment	3
Exhibits	4
Inspection	4
Judges	4
Tracklayer	4
General	5
Safety	6
Grading	7
Track & Search Dog (TSD)	
Test 1 – Unknown Person	7
Test 2 – Unknown Person	8
Test 3 – Unknown Person	8
Track & Search Dog Excellent (TSDX)	
Test 4 – Unknown Person	9
Test 5 – Unknown Person	9
Test 6 – Unknown Person	10

GUIDELINES

Introduction	11
Trial Information	11
Contamination	12
Road Categories	12
Free Quartering/Search Start	12
Scenarios: TSD1 – TSDX4 tests	12
Scenarios: TSDX5 Urban & TSDX6 Night Tracks.	12-13
Explanation of TSDX5 Urban & TSDX6 Night Tracks	13
Example No. 1 - TSDX5 or TSDX6	14
Example No. 2 of TSDX5 or TSDX6	15

RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF TRACK AND SEARCH DOG TRIALS

Introduction

The Track & Search Dog tests should be a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions.

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.

The tests require the dog to work on varied surfaces including gravel, sand, paved surfaces, and roads as well as bush. Tracks should be laid so as to represent the meanderings of a lost person and not always be 'straight line' tracks. Tracks should be as natural as possible, bearing in mind that lost children are drawn to playgrounds, while adults are drawn to buildings to seek help.

Tracks may cross small streams or shallow bodies of water, roads [but not include major roads] and may be laid in contaminated areas which may include houses, bridges, shelters, stairs and ramps, parking areas or similar structures. Light Vehicle & Pedestrian traffic including other dogs walking on lead should not be avoided.

Where referred to in the Rules the words, Canine Control, shall mean the Controlling Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

Interpretation of these Rules should not be necessary, however, should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification, application must be made by the Canine Control to the appropriate Committee of the ANKC, whose decision shall be binding.

Decisions

Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting a trial shall be subject to appeal to the Canine Control in the State or Territory in which the trial is conducted.

The Rules of the Canine Control shall apply to all Track & Search Trials and to any Affiliate conducting the Track & Search Trials and, in the event of inconsistency; the rules of the Canine Control shall prevail.

Anyone taking part in a trial who openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judge shall render himself liable to be debarred from further participation in the trial and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Canine Control.

Removal of a Dog

The Judge may order the removal and disqualification from all Trial Competition on the day any dog attacks, and must lodge a report with the Canine Control.

The Judge may order the removal from competition of any dog which does not obey its Handler, any Handler who interferes wilfully with another competitor or a competitor's dog or whose behaviour is objectionable and must exclude from competition any dog which the Judge considers unfit to compete.

Withdrawal of Dog

A dog may be withdrawn before or during judging with the consent of the Judge and must not take any further part in that Track & Search Dog Test.

Disqualification

No rating given. The dog is disqualified from all Trial Competition on the day and the Judge must provide a written report to the Canine Control within 14 days.

Eligibility

A dog must have attained the title of Tracking Champion prior to being eligible for entry into Track and Search Dog Trials.

Whilst there is no formal obedience assessment, it is understood that because of the possibility of livestock, pedestrian and vehicle traffic, the handler must be confident that they have complete control over the dog.

Titles

To qualify for the title of Track and Search Dog (TSD) and Track and Search Dog Excellent (TSDX) a dog must pass each of the following tests once:

Track & Search Dog (TSD)	Test 1 (unknown person) Test 2 (unknown person) Test 3 (unknown person)
Track & Search Dog Excellent (TSDX)	Test 4 (unknown person)
Urban Track	Test 5 (unknown person)
Urban Night Track	Test 6 (unknown person)

A maximum of one test within a title may be worked in the same day by one dog.

- A) Dogs must complete in order Test 1 through to Test 6
- B) The dog must qualify under at least two different Judges for the TSD and TSDX titles to be granted.
- C) An Exhibit, which has gained sufficient awards to qualify for a Track and Search Dog Title, shall not be eligible to compete for a higher title at a Track & Search Dog Trial until such time as the owner/s have lodged an application for recognition of the title with the Canine Control in the State or Territory in which the registered owner/s reside.
- D) The TSD (Track & Search Dog) and TSDX (Track & Search Dog Excellent) Certificates may be granted on application to the Canine Control concerned.

Equipment

- (a) All Track and Search Dog tests must be conducted with the dog in a suitable harness. For tests 1-4 the minimum length of lead should be 10 metres and for tests 5-6 the lead should be no longer than 10 metres. The dog must be worked at the length of leash suitable to the terrain, environment and in accordance with government requirements. Unless specified in the description of the test, the lead must be connected to the harness.
- (b) All articles used on the track must belong to the tracklayer, be approved by the judge and should represent articles made of substances used in everyday life that an average child or adult might carry and drop; i.e. Wallet, purse, mobile phone, sunglasses, notebook, bunch of keys, soft toy, shoe or cap etc.
- (c) The starting article should be an article of clothing (i.e. T-shirt, cap or shoe). Articles used on the track should not have any sharp edges or protruding parts that may cause injury to the dog.
- (d) Tests 1-4 will commence with a starting line which shall be indicated by 2 flags approximately 30 metres apart.
- (e) The suitability of all tracking equipment shall be left to the discretion of the judge.
- (f) No markers or equipment indicating the Track shall remain in place during the testing of a dog. The Tracklayer for all urban tracks must be supplied with a detailed map as physical markers (flags) cannot be used.
- (g) The handler may not offer food or utilize training aids during the running of a Track and water may only be offered with the Judge's permission.

- (h) For urban night tracks, the handler must wear high visibility clothing and a night light worn on the head.
- (i) All those officiating must wear high-visibility clothing.

Exhibits

- (a) Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in Trials, nor remain within the precincts of a Trial.
- (b) A dog must wear safety equipment and may wear protective clothing in a Trial.
- (c) The order of judging must be decided prior to commencement of the Trial.

Inspection

An examination of all bitches in the Trial is necessary. A member of the Affiliate conducting the Trial may do this examination.

Judges

- (a) Judges must be licensed with the Canine Control in their respective State or Territory to Judge Track and Search Dog Trials.
- (b) The maximum number of Track and Search dogs to be judged on one day will be governed by a point system as follows:

TSD test	2 points
TSDX	3 points

A combination of TSD and TSDX tracks must not exceed 20 points for any judge on one day. Judges may specify on their contracts how many points they are willing to judge,
- (c) In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the Judge may, in rare cases and at his own discretion, re-judge a dog on another track.
- (d) A dog which commences a track and fails at the start shall be deemed to have trialed.
- (e) The Judge must sign a Qualifying Certificate for each qualifying dog, denoting the type of track passed.
- (f) A signed copy of the Judge's Report is to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Canine Control concerned within 7 days of the Trial.
- (g) Judges should bear in mind when placing articles that pedestrians and other dogs may pick up the articles or that the wind direction can cause them to move position.
- (h) Judges should position themselves on the track so that they properly evaluate the dog's performance and to ensure that the dog is given adequate time and distance to work out scenting problems particularly around heavily contaminated areas and buildings. Judges should be familiar with scenting conditions in areas which consist of more than just vegetation. Buildings, other structures and various surfaces can affect the scent.
- (i) The Judge should make every effort to attend a workshop or seminar carried out by their State Control Tracking Committee, to ensure they can be confident in giving the dog a fair evaluation.

Tracklayer

- (a) The Tracklayer shall be a person approved by the Judge and unknown to the handler and have not previously laid a track for that dog within the preceding 6 months. It shall be the responsibility of the Affiliate conducting the Trial to make a genuine effort to ensure that only unknown tracklayers are used.

- (b) Before starting the track, the Tracklayer must show the Judge all the articles to be used. These articles are to be with the Tracklayer for at least 30 minutes prior to laying the Track so that his scent may be imparted to them.
- (c) The Tracklayer must place the articles on the track at the places nominated by the Judge, one article to be at the commencement of each track in addition to the others required. The start article will be in a sealed bag, which the Judge will hand to the handler approximately 30 metres from the starting line or it may be placed in the vicinity where instructions to the Tracklayer are given by the Judge.
- (d) All articles must be placed on the Track but not on a turn or less than 30 metres before or after a turn.
- (e) The Tracklayer will walk at a normal pace and must not scratch the ground or stop unnecessarily while laying the Track.
- (f) The Tracklayer must follow the Track, which has been marked out earlier, collecting all flags as specified in the type of track and by the Judge. Where flags are not utilized, a detailed map showing clear indicators will be provided to the tracklayer.
- (g) The Tracklayer MUST be at the end of the track, and make themselves as inconspicuous as possible and remain still and silent. The Tracklayer need not remain at the end of the track subject to the approval of the Canine Control, but must be in place when the Handler completes the track.
- (h) The Tracklayer when laying urban tracks, will be followed wherever possible by a vehicle (safety issue), which may collect the Tracklayer from the end of the track and also may be used to transport the Tracklayer back to the end of the track.

General

- (a) There is no time limit, provided the dog is working.
- (b) A dog that is working too fast, on instructions from the Judge, must be gently restrained by the Handler but any leading or guiding of the dog constitutes grounds for calling the dog off and marking it failed. Failure to obey the Judge's instruction for restraint will render the dog liable to disqualification.
- (c) The Judge at all times must be within hearing distance of the Handler.
- (d) The test is completed when the Tracklayer is found, or in the event of failure, when the Handler is redirected to the correct Track.
- (e) The Handler must not be given any guidance by the Judge or any other person.
- (f) If a dog is not tracking it must not be marked "Pass" even though it may have found the Tracklayer.
- (g) It is desirable that the Judge be involved in the setting out of the Track.
- (h) The minimum distance between any parallel legs of any parts of the same or separate Tracks must be 100 metres.
- (i) A Track may be reused for testing a second dog, provided the minimum time lapse between tracks is 3 hours.
- (j) At the Handler's option, the dog may be given the scent during the Track. Except for extenuating circumstances the Judge will penalize such instances accordingly and the dog that is constantly given the scent must fail.
- (k) Handlers may speak to their dogs during the Track. The Judge may penalize if he considered such talk excessive.
- (l) Reprimands either physical or verbal will not be tolerated. Reprimands will be severely penalized up to and including disqualification. Disqualification shall be reported to the Canine Control within 14 days.
- (m) Spectators will not be permitted to approach closer than 40 metres to the Judge when the dog is working.

- (n) 30 day suspension. Dogs which have failed on two consecutive occasions, may be subject to a 30 day suspension from competing at a Track and Search Dog Trial. This will only take effect if the Affiliate conducting the Track and Search Dog Trial ballots for the tests available. Suspensions will not be carried over a calendar year. It is the responsibility of the Handler to advise of two consecutive fails.
- (o) Acute corners should not be used on any of the tracks.
- (p) With the exception of Urban Tracks TSDX Test 5 and TSDX Test 6 the tracks should have a ratio of 75 percent vegetated surfaces and 25 percent non-vegetated surfaces.
- (q) Although not preferred, multiple diversion tracks may be laid by the same tracklayer.

Safety and the Tracklayer

It is imperative that a brief description of the tracklayer be given to the handler prior to the commencement of the track. These details should include:

- Adult/Child (age)
- Name of lost person
- Physical characteristics i.e. gender, hair colour, build
- Clothing/footwear

Safety of the tracklayer is paramount, therefore the following points must be observed at all times.

- (a) The tracklayer for the TSDX 5 and TSDX 6 tracks will be followed by a vehicle, the Track Steward or nominated responsible person who is familiar with the track and who will accompany the tracklayer by walking nearby whilst the track is being laid. Whoever accompanies the tracklayer must carry a hand held communication device such as a two way radio or mobile phone.
- (b) If a child is the tracklayer, they should be no younger than 10 yrs of age and must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult walking alongside who is approved by the parent/guardian of the child. A communication device such as a two way radio or mobile phone must be carried by the accompanying adult.
- (c) Where a child is used in any capacity in a Track & Search Dog trial, this must be in accordance with Federal, State and Territory Legislative requirements.
- (d) Where the track ends outside a dwelling/building, the occupant and immediate neighbours must be advised prior to the event that a sanctioned event will be conducted and that a tracklayer will be waiting outside their premises during the time the track is being worked.
- (e) A "safety steward" shall closely follow behind the handler while working the urban and night tracks. Their responsibility is to alert the handler of any impending hazards, i.e. vehicles, cyclists, stray dogs, pedestrians so that if required, evasive action can be taken. The dog may be stopped to allow traffic/pedestrians etc to pass by calling the dog to heel or shortening the lead to have complete control.
- (f) When crossing streets, handlers must be able to gather their lead off the road so that any oncoming traffic will not cross the lead thus impeding the dog.
- (g) The Tracklayer must be able to make contact with the judge via a communication device such as two way radio or mobile phone at all times while the track is being worked. The safety of the Tracklayer will take precedence over the working of the track. If at anytime the tracklayer's safety is compromised, the track must be aborted.
- (h) When working the night/evening tracks, high visibility clothing and head light must be worn by the handler. The dog should have reflective tape sewn onto the harness or alternatively have some type of LED light attached to the harness.
- (i) When the dog and handler are being judged they will be followed closely by a Safety Steward, and then the Judge & Track Steward.

- (j) It is not necessary and in most cases not desirable for the tracklayer to remain at the end of the track, but must be in place before the track is worked.

Grading

The following evaluation will be given for :

Pass	Fail
Pass	A dog that fails will be marked "Fail:
Good	
Very Good	
Excellent	

- (a) The dog should indicate the articles by either sitting, standing, downing, picking up, or at least pausing to the satisfaction of the judge.
- (b) A dog that does not indicate an article on tests 1-4 will only receive a downgrading in their result, but will not fail.
- (c) A dog must be marked fail if it does not find the Tracklayer.

Track and Search Dog (TSD)

Test 1

Description:

The dog is required to track an unknown person over a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include vegetation, sand, gravel limestone or similar.

The Track will have 4 changes of direction of approximately 90 degrees.

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 shall follow the Track making a 90 degree turn approximately 100 metres from the start of the Track.

The start flag 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 flag and all other flags up to the point where the main Tracklayer has continued on. The starting line flags will remain.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently take the Handler and the dog to approximately 30 metres from the starting line, hand or indicate the unopened bag to the Handler and inform him that he is free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must hunt for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching on-lead (fixed collar). When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog 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 dog must ignore the diversion scent and not depart from the track more than 10 metres and must work to the main Tracklayer. Failure to do so will result in a fail.

The dog shall be started 60 minutes after the main track has been laid.

There will be 2 articles placed on the track. The tracklayer must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

Track and Search Dog (TSD)

Test 2

Description:

The dog is required to track an unknown person over a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces which may include vegetation, sand, gravel limestone or similar.

The Track will have 4 changes of direction of approximately 90 degrees.

Part of the Track will be walked or crossed by 2 unknown (diversion) Tracklayers. The main Tracklayer shall follow the Track accompanied by the first diversion Tracklayer, the diversion Tracklayer making a 90 degree turn at approximately 50 metres from the start of the Track while the main Tracklayer continues on. 30 minutes after the main Tracklayer has commenced the track, the second diversion Tracklayer shall cross the track at right angles not less than 150 metres from the start.

The start flag will be removed by the main Tracklayer. The starting line flags will remain.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently take the Handler and the dog to approximately 30 metres from the starting line, hand or indicate the unopened bag to the Handler and inform him that he is free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness but and must hunt for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching on-lead (fixed collar). When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog 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 dog must ignore the diversion scent and not depart from the track more than 10 metres and must work to the main Tracklayer. Failure to do so will result in a fail.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be is 120 minutes and the maximum 240 minutes from the time the track is laid.

There will be 2 articles placed on the track. The tracklayer must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

Track and Search Dog (TSD)

Test 3

Description:

The dog is required to track an unknown person over a trail of approximately 1000 metres of varied surfaces which may include vegetation, sand, gravel, limestone or similar.

The Track will have 5 changes of direction of approximately 90 degrees.

The Track will be crossed by 2 unknown diversion Tracklayers at any point along the track however the Track cannot be crossed twice on the same leg or on the 1st leg of the track. The diversion tracks will be laid as soon as the main Tracklayer has completed the main track.

The start flag will be removed by the Tracklayer. The starting line flags will remain.

A minimum of 3 people, including the main Tracklayer will wander over and around the general area of the starting line. The main Tracklayer will then commence walking the track, while the other remaining members of the group shall move away from the area.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently take the Handler and the dog to approximately 30 metres from the starting line, hand or indicate the unopened bag to the Handler and inform him that he is free to start tracking.

The dog will be in harness and must hunt for the track by free quartering off-lead or searching on-lead (fixed collar). When the dog has indicated to the handler that it has located the track, the dog 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 dog must ignore the diversion scents and not depart from the track more than 10 metres and must work to the main Tracklayer. Failure to do so will result in a fail.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be 120 minutes and the maximum 240 minutes from the time the track is laid.

There will be 2 Articles placed on the track. The tracklayer must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

Track and Search Dog Excellent (TSDX)

Test 4

Description:

The dog is required to track an unknown person over a trail of approximately 1200 metres of varied terrain & vegetation. The track should follow a dirt road or trail for a part of the distance, have at least 4 turns and generally meander as a lost person may do. It should cross at least one paved or gravel road, stream or shallow body of water.

This track should start in a likely 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.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently take the Handler and the dog to approximately 30 metres from the starting line, hand or indicate the unopened bag to the Handler and inform him that he is free to start tracking.

The dog should be in harness and search for the track on a long lead and collar and once it indicates the track the handler is to clip the lead on to the harness and follow the dog to the conclusion of the track.

The dog must ignore the diversion scents and not depart from the track more than 10 metres and must work to the main Tracklayer. Failure to do so will result in a fail.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be 120 minutes to a maximum of 240 minutes from the time the track is laid.

There will be 2 Articles on the track. The tracklayer must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

Track and Search Dog Excellent (TSDX)

Test 5 [Urban Track]

Description

The dog is required to track an unknown person over a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces including tar-sealed roads, pavements, grass and foot trails. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

The Track should be laid utilizing 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.

There should be no more than 5 turns and at least 3 turns shall be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the handler i.e. 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.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently take the Handler and the dog to approximately 30 metres from the starting point, hand the unopened bag to the Handler and inform him that he is free to start tracking.

The dog should be in harness and search for the track on a long lead and collar and once it indicates the track, the handler is to clip the lead on to the harness and follow the dog to the conclusion of the track.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be 120 minutes and the maximum 240 minutes from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The tracklayer must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

Track and Search Dog Excellent (TSDX)

Test 6 [Urban Evening/Night Track]

Description:

The dog is required to track an unknown person over a trail of approximately 800 metres of varied surfaces including tar-sealed roads, pavements, grass and foot trails. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

The Track should be laid utilizing 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.

There should be no more than 5 turns and at least 3 turns shall be on non-vegetated surfaces.

The exact start point of the track should be known to the handler i.e. 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.

The Judge will, when the track has aged sufficiently take the Handler and the dog to approximately 30 metres from the starting point, hand the unopened bag to the Handler inform him that he is free to start tracking.

The dog should be in harness and search for the track on a long lead and collar and once it indicates the track the handler is to clip the lead on to the harness and follow the dog to the conclusion of the track.

The minimum time for the commencement of the track must be is 180 minutes and the maximum 240 minutes from the time the track is laid.

There will be no articles on this track. The tracklayer must be found at the end of the track to obtain a pass.

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF TRACK AND SEARCH DOG TRIALS

Introduction:

The concept of TSD & TSDX tests provides the opportunity for a dog to compete after obtaining a Tracking Champion title, by enhancing their skills and completing a series of graded tests that replicate real life scenarios.

A dog completing the TSD & TSDX tests could conceivably go into Search & Rescue Work at a later date should they so wish. In a real life situation, Search & Rescue dog and handler do not have an exact starting point to commence tracking, therefore the tests should be as close as possible to a life-like situation, where a dog is used to find a missing person whilst demonstrating the dog's willingness and enthusiasm to follow a specific scent.

Trial information:

Track & Search Dog trials should not be conducted on the same day as Tracking Trials and while the TSD & TSDX tests are approved by the ANKC, they are optional. Should a club not wish to run Track & Search Dog trials, they are not compelled to.

Most areas currently used for Tracking trials should be suitable for conducting Track and Search Dog Trials. Western Australia uses the pine forest and bush for their tracks, Victoria uses bush and paddocks, therefore whatever each state has at their disposal should be quite suitable. Where paddocks are used, the TSD tracks may commence on a quiet roadway and then progress onto paddocks, along fence lines, firebreaks, sheep tracks etc, all of which can be used as there is no restriction on boundaries.

All tracks may be reused provided that the minimum time lapse between tracks is 3 hours. Effectively this means that the same track can be utilised several times each trial. It is imperative that a new tracklayer is used for each track and they have not previously walked on any part of the same track.

Under no circumstances are there any markers to be left on the track, therefore coloured pieces of 'surveyors tape' attached to small pegs can be attached to foliage, fence lines or wherever possible, stakes with a pitchfork type base which can be pushed into the ground may be used to mark the track as long as all markers are removed prior to the handler working the track.

The tests will require the dog to work on varied surfaces including gravel, sand, paved surfaces, and roads as well as bush. Tests 1-4 shall have a ratio of approximately 75% vegetated surfaces and 25% non-vegetated surfaces. Vegetated and non-vegetated surfaces may alternate throughout the track : the ratio of 75% to 25% refers to the totals for the track. Tracks should be laid so as to represent the meanderings of a lost person and not always be 'straight line' tracks. Urban Tracks Tests 5-6 should be as natural as possible, bearing in mind that lost children are drawn to playgrounds, while adults are drawn to buildings to seek help. (See examples 1 and 2).

Tracks may cross small shallow bodies of water, roads [but not include major roads] and may be laid in contaminated areas which may include houses, bridges, shelters, stairs and ramps, parking areas or similar structures. Light Vehicle & Pedestrian traffic including other dogs walking on lead should not be avoided.

Contamination:

Where the term 'contaminated' is used, it generally refers to a highly scented area where people, animals, vehicles and the like, have previously traversed or are present.

Road categories:

Where roads/streets are used for urban and night tracks, they must not be a major road or main highway which carries a high volume of traffic.

Free Quartering/Search Start

Tracks TSD1 – TSDX4 require that the dog free quarter off lead or search on lead to find the start. Ideally the dog should free quarter off lead and the handler may offer verbal and physical direction from behind the starting line to assist the dog find the track. However if the handler chooses to have the dog search on lead, they may only offer verbal direction from behind the starting line/point and remain at the end of the 10m lead, allowing the dog complete freedom to locate the start. The handler may walk parallel to the start line provided they do not cross it. The handler is not permitted to direct the dog on a shortened lead as is the case in a Tracking Trial Test 6 start. When the dog has located the start of the track, the handler should make a mental note of its location, stop the dog to enable the lead to be attached to the harness. The handler may cross the start line at this point and then commence working the track at the point the dog indicated. Judging will commence at this point.

Length of Lead in Urban tracks. The rules state the dog shall work on a lead no longer than 10 metres and worked at the length suitable to the terrain, environment and in accordance with government regulations. Each State body must contact their respective government department in regards to the Dog Act legislation regarding lead length that is permitted when training and trialling a dog

Scenarios: TSD1 – TSDX6 tests are as follows:

TSD1. The track is 800m of various vegetation and terrain - A person has wandered off and appears lost, a second person who goes looking and cannot find the 'lost person' returns for help. As there is no definite place last seen (PLS) the dog is required to free-quarter off lead or search on lead for the direction of the missing person and then follow the track to the conclusion. This track is typical of a family picnic in a bush/rural setting where a person wanders off. Someone goes looking but when unable to find them, returns to seek help.

TSD2. The track is 800m of various vegetation and terrain. Two people when out walking in the bush or rural setting, have wandered off and become lost. They separate, one returns for help. Somewhere further along, another person has walked across the track. There is no definite place last seen (PLS) the dog is required to free-quarter off lead or search on lead for the direction of the missing person and then follow the track to the conclusion.

TSD3. The track is 1000m of various vegetation and terrain. A person has wandered away from a group and has become lost in a 'contaminated' search area. There is no definite place last seen (PLS) the dog is required to free-quarter off lead or search on lead for the direction of the missing person and then follow the track to the conclusion. Similar setting as TSD2.

TSDX4. The track is 1200m and typically commences at a road end where a person has become lost in a 'contaminated' search area. By having the track meander increases the handler's ability to trust and follow the dog over a more realistic type of track. The dog will not be required to free quarter off lead because of the possibility of bystanders and vehicles being in vicinity.

It must be noted that if the dog follows the cross track for more than 10 metres on TSD1 – TSDX4 tracks, it must fail.

TSDX5. Urban track. The track is 800m. A person has become lost in a contaminated urban search area which includes varied surfaces including tar-sealed roads, pavements,

grass and foot trails. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. This type of track is the most common type of track worked by Search & Rescue dogs as majority of all missing people become lost in urban areas.

TSDX6 (Urban Evening/Night Track). The track is 800m. A person has become lost in a contaminated urban search area. It usually takes several hours before the person is reported missing therefore most urban searches are conducted after dark. This type of track is the most common type of track worked by Search & Rescue dogs as majority of all missing people become lost in urban areas.

Explanation of TSDX5 Urban & TSDX6 Night Tracks.

The tracks are 800 metres long. A person has become lost in a contaminated urban search area of varied surfaces including tar-sealed roads, pavements, grass and foot trails. It should include distractions such as parked cars, light vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The Track should be laid utilizing 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. The exact start point of the track should be known to the handler i.e. 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 and collect up any loose lead behind, ensuring the safety of the dog should it attempt to cross a busy road.

If the person responsible for setting out the track is someone other than the judge, they will be known as the Track Steward and will accompany the tracklayer at a discreet distance to ensure that the map is followed exactly. They will also accompany the judge when the track is being judged.

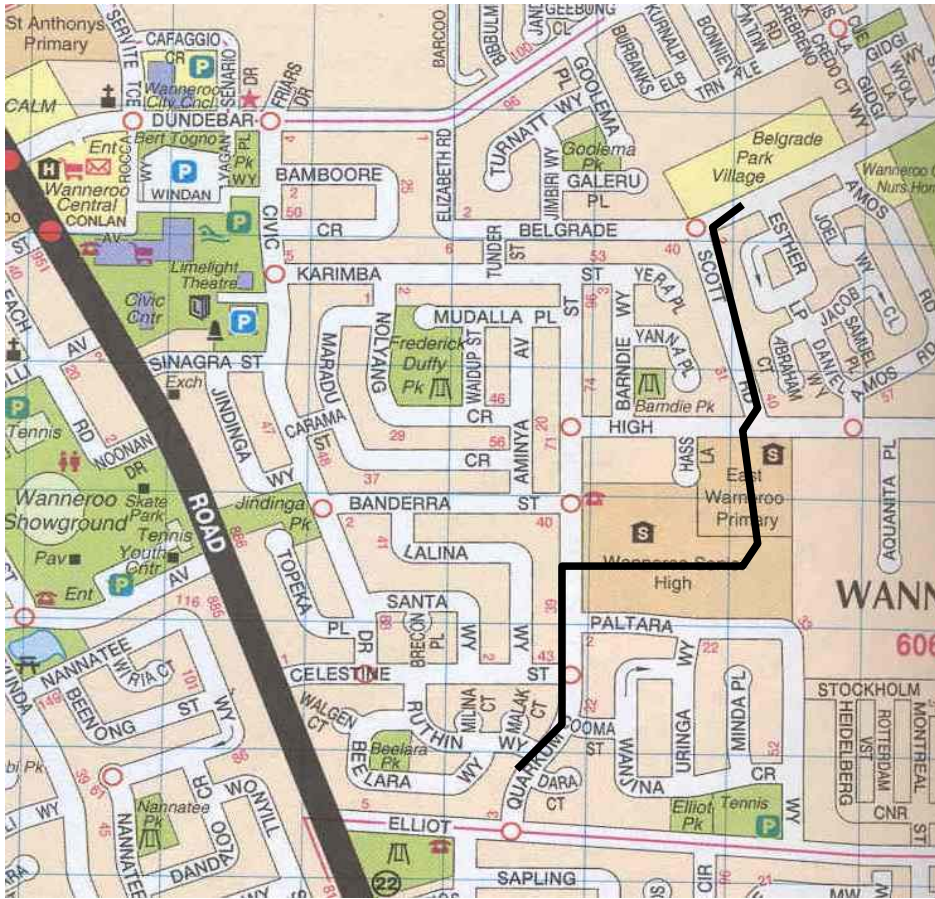
When mapping out the area for the TSDX5 and TSDX 6 tracks, careful consideration must be given to the various types of terrain on the track. Judges must be mindful that the scent will cling to fences, kerbs, foliage of any type etc, even though the track may have been laid on the street verge. Asphalt and smooth concrete does not hold the scent as well as other types of terrain. Some allowance needs to be made for difficult terrain, but at the same time, they should not be avoided.

Cars and other traffic will permeate the air with fumes which adds extra challenges to the dog. Vehicles are often parked on street verges or driveways after the track has been laid and the dog is expected to continue tracking whilst negotiating changes on the track.

The TSDX 6 track may utilise areas lit by street lights, safety lighting around buildings and some areas which are quite dark. Tracks may be laid in the late afternoon in order for the tracklayer to make use of daylight and then worked during late evening or after dark. Where lighting is poor, it is essential that the handler wears a good head light to ensure that some visibility is given and they are able to discern between ground levels to minimise minor injuries.

As no markers are in place for the tracklayer to follow, the tracklayer will be provided with a detailed map and the Track Steward who will be familiar with the track can follow closely to the tracklayer when the track is being laid to ensure that it is laid correctly. Note that the map must clearly indicate which side of the road the tracklayer is to walk.

Example No. 1 of TSDX 5 or TSDX6 track is as follows:



The above is an example of a TSDX5 track and is given to the tracklayer. It will be noted that there are many streets leading off the track which will test the dog's scenting ability.

The tracklayer will be accompanied by the Track Steward when laying the track, and the backup vehicle will, when the tracklayer crosses over the road and enters school property, continue along Quarkum St, turning right into High Road then will follow tracklayer when they emerge from the school grounds until the completion of the track.

Details of the track are: No. 14 (house on corner of Quarkum & Ruthin Way) commence track on grass verge in front of house. As indicated by the map, the tracklayer will walk on left hand side of street on grass verge until reaching 47 Quarkum then cross over road and enter High School grounds. Continue walking straight ahead crossing the sports oval, turning left at the swings in the playground. Walk straight ahead through the school buildings (B and C) coming out on High Road. Cross over onto right side of Scott Road as indicated on map, walking along street verge until Belgrade Road is reached, turning right at the corner of Belgrade Road. The track concludes at front of convenience store about 50 metres along Belgrade Road.

When the track is ready to be worked, the handler should be given the following information. The person to be found is a boy named Johnny, aged 11 yrs, blonde, wearing a red shirt, blue shorts who has disappeared from outside his home at No. 14 Quarkum Street.

Example 2: of TSDX 5 or TSDX6 track is as follows:



The above track is suitable for either TSDX5 or TSDX 6. It will commence on the front lawn of house No. 20 Quarkum Street. The tracklayer is to walk as indicated on the map on left side of street, turning left down a walkway near roundabout at top of hill, which leads onto a park. Continue walking where indicated through park onto Nolyang Cr, The track will conclude at a bench in a small park at the shopping centre.

When the track is ready to be worked the tracklayer should be given the following information. The person to be found is an elderly lady named Florence, wearing yellow floral dress with beige cardigan who has wandered away from her home at No.20 Quarkum Street.