

National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC®
Official NACSW™
ODOR RECOGNITION TESTS

Odors Tested: Birch, Anise, Clove

Date: Sunday, April 12th, 2026

Test Location: Xcel Canine Training Center, 5400 Progress Blvd, Bethel Park, PA 15102

Test Host: Xcel Canine Training

Test Host Contact Info: Marissa Breitenstein, rissabreit@gmail.com

Test Secretary: Marissa Breitenstein, rissabreit@gmail.com

Certifying Official: Lori Timberlake

Judge: James Altman

Entry Cost: \$35 per odor

Number of Entries: 150

ORT ENTRY INFORMATION

Opening Date: Monday, March 2nd, 2026 at 10am EST

Entries Close: Sunday, April 5th, 2026 at 5pm EST or When entry limits have been met

Second Dog Policy: One dog per handler per odor test. There will be no accommodations for second dogs.

Entry Method

First received by either online form or USPS.

For online entry:

Submit form online through our website (xcelcaninetraining.com) under the upcoming events tab. When you receive a confirmation email that your entry is accepted, you will be able to send money through PayPal or mail a check.

For mail entry:

Mail overnight deliveries must have the signature waived box checked. We are only accepting checks for mail entry.

Mail entry to:

Marissa Breitenstein
% ORT
428 Reamer Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15106

Make checks payable to:
Xcel Canine Training Center

Entry Requirements

A Qualified Entry is one that meets all the following criteria:

1. Complete entry during the specified entry time frame.
2. The Handler is a NACSW member for the 2025-2026 membership year (8/1/25- 7/31/26).
3. The Dog is registered with the NACSW.
4. Dogs participating in an Odor Recognition Test (ORT) must be at least six months of age.

For Exhibit Only Dogs (FEO): Dogs running FEO are not eligible to receive titles. FEO results will not be included in the posted ORT results. If space remains after all qualified entries are accommodated on Sunday, April 5th, 2026, then we will offer spaces for those who wish to run a dog (FEO). Dogs may only run FEO in odors that they are *not* already registered for.

For information on how to register or become a member go to www.NACSW.net

Trial Eligibility and ORTs

The ORT Title must be earned at least 14 days before a trial opening date to be eligible for the first draw period.

All odors must be passed in order to earn the ORT title. It is not required that they all be passed at the same test.

Notification

Acknowledgement of entry acceptance/confirmation, will be made by email when entries are processed for those handlers that provide an email address. If you require confirmation via USPS, you must provide a self-addressed stamped envelope with your entry. Your payment receipt and notification are confirmation of your completed entry.

Basic Description of the Test

To successfully pass an ORT a dog must identify the location of the target odor, and the handler must correctly call an “alert” within a **two minute 30 second (2:30)** time period. The Odor Recognition Test consists of a drill type exercise which requires 12 closed boxes typically set up in a pattern of two rows, spaced a **minimum of 36” apart**. The ORT is conducted on leash. Complete information can be obtained on the NACSW website. Handlers may test on all 3 odors at the same event.

*All exhibitors should obtain and review a copy of the **NACSW K9 NOSE WORK® RULE BOOK**. You may get it from their website: www.NACSW.net*

No dog will be given more than one space in the same odor test at a single event.

CANCELLATION POLICY

For cancellation of entries on or before 5pm EST Sunday, March 29th, 2026 – Full refund minus a \$10 processing fee. For cancellation of entries after 5pm EST Sunday, March 29th, 2026 – no refunds will be issued unless the space can be filled in which case a refund will be issued minus a \$10 processing fee.

All cancellations must be emailed to Marissa Breitenstein, rissabreit@gmail.com.

Entry fees shall not be refunded if a dog or handler is absent, disqualified, or excused by the NACSW official or judge.

This cancellation and refund policy applies to handlers that must withdraw for any reason including but not limited to injury, illness, emergency, and personal or work-related reasons.

If the event cannot take place or be completed by reason of fire, civil disturbances, an Act of God, public emergency, or any other cause beyond the control of the event organizers, then the event host will make their best effort to provide partial refunds after recouping their expenses.

LOCATION DETAILS

ADA Site Specific Conditions

Test site has a gravel parking lot for competitor parking. Competitor parking will also be in the parking lot across the street in a gravel lot. The building is in an industrial park where there is minimal traffic. Designated dog potty area is a sloped grassy area. Building is one level with an entrance and exit that is handicap and wheelchair accessible. Training building floor consists of tile in staging area and rubberized flooring in testing area.

Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, these conditions may be modified at the last minute.

Modeled after real-life detection work, NACSW events are held in many different locations, with a variety of terrain, under varying weather conditions. Dogs and handlers need to be able to safely negotiate a variety of surfaces, including, but not limited to, tile, linoleum, carpeting, gravel, asphalt, uneven surfaces, and slippery footing. Handlers should be prepared to deal with a variety of weather conditions, including heat, cold, rain and snow. Events frequently require covering extensive distances to get to and from the parking area to each of the search areas and generally require that this be done across natural, uneven surfaces. Handlers should be prepared for physical demands and must be able to navigate the terrain with their dog accordingly. Handlers should expect to spend most of the day outside or in their vehicles as there are rarely indoor crating options at events. Please be prepared for you and your canine partner to deal with all of these varying environmental challenges. Handlers should familiarize themselves with potential regional risks and health concerns that may affect themselves or their dogs. Handlers agree that they are entering this event at their own risk.

Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, the details below may need to be modified at the last minute.

Parking

The parking lot is small with no extra space between vehicles and is either gravel or paved with no shade available.

RV Parking

RV Parking unavailable.

Running Vehicles or Generators in the parking lot

The parking is tight at this location and running your vehicles or generators in the parking lot is not allowed.

Reactive Dog Parking

Parking is tight and reactive dog parking may not be available. If you prefer to have reactive dog parking please email Marissa Breitenstein, rissabreit@gmail.com or indicate preference through the entry form so parking accommodations can be made ahead of time. Accommodations may be unavailable day of show.

Unentered Dogs

Unentered dogs must remain in the competitor's vehicle during the test day. There will be ample potty areas, but unentered dogs should not be allowed to "play", exercise, or train on the test grounds.

Facility/Site Prohibitive Restrictions (e.g., smoking, firearms, alcohol, drugs, video)

Firearms, alcohol, or smoking (including vaping) are not allowed on this test site.

DOG INFORMATION

Dog Policies

- All dogs must always be on a 6' leash when not searching. NO flexi-leashes while not participating in a search.
- Reactive and/or spatially challenged dogs should wear a red bandana (to be provided by the dog's handler) to help signal others that the dog needs extra space from other dogs.
- Dogs will be toileted in designated areas and handlers must pick up and dispose of waste.
- Dogs and handlers must stay in designated areas to avoid contaminating search space, interrupting a search, or from viewing any part of the search.
- Handlers should expect to keep their dogs confined in a crate or vehicle when not searching. The logistics of an event typically do not allow for dogs to hang out on leash in between searches. Handlers should plan to provide their own shade using canopies or shade cloths.
- Refer to location details (above) for information on unentered dogs.

Females in Season

Females in season will be allowed to run wearing "pants" at the very end of the day after all other dogs have tested. Handlers with females in season should park and toilet their dogs away from the other dogs if the location logistics permit. Handlers must email Marissa Breitenstein, rissabreit@gmail.com so plans can be made for the dog.

OTHER INFORMATION

COVID-19 Information

Event attendees are required to adhere to the NACSW [COVID-19 Event Guidelines and Rules](#). In addition to those guidelines the following changes and guidelines are in effect for this test due to COVID-19. If there are any significant changes or updates after the draw period, handlers will be notified via email. Handlers are responsible for staying up to date on any jurisdictional requirements for their home location as well as the event location including any travel guidance.

ADA Requests

If you are an individual with a disability and would like to request accommodation(s), please email ADA@nacsw.net. Please include your name, ORT date, ORT host name, and your requested accommodation(s).

Rules

Complete rules are available at www.NACSW.net. **It is the responsibility of each handler to read and understand the current NACSW™ Rule book prior to participating in a NACSW event.**

Liability

By registering for the event, the handler hereby assumes all risks of, and responsibility for, accidents and/or damage to her/himself or to her/his property or to others **or the property of others**, resulting from the actions of her/his dog. The handler expressly agree that the NACSW, Xcel Canine Training Center and its assignees or any other person, or persons, of said groups, shall not be held liable personally, or collectively, under any circumstances, for injury, and/or damage to her/himself, for loss, injury, **or damage** to property, whether due to uncontrolled dogs or negligence of any member of said groups, or any other cause, or causes. The handler also agrees to assume all financial liability that may be incurred by the NACSW, **Xcel Canine Training Center and its assignees or any other person, or persons, of said groups** due to the actions of themselves or their dogs regardless of the cause.

Sportsmanship

All handlers and spectators are expected to follow the rules of the NACSW and demonstrate good sportsmanship. This includes making sure the hide placements are unknown to the handler prior to searching and kept secret from other handlers. Please do not discuss hide placement or any details of a dog's

performance that may provide information or clues to other handlers or may be overheard.

Results

During the odor re-sets, the official results sheet will be brought out to the parking area for handlers to photo or review. We recommend you verify your results on the official results sheet and let your host or judge know if you have any questions regarding your results.

Spectators

There is no general spectating at an ORT. Handlers in an ORT may not be spectators for other Handlers regardless of relationship (with the exception of a minor testing after the accompanying adult tests).

If non-handler attendance is allowed, only immediate family members/friends of the dog/handler team being tested may spectate that team.

Spectating options may not be available or may be limited based on logistics. Please list your attendance/spectating policy here. Some examples are:

Spectators are reminded that the hide placements must not be discussed, nor should they speak with any handlers about what they saw until after the event is complete.

No dogs will be allowed in the spectator area. No unentered dogs with spectators are allowed at the event.

An adult accompanying a minor must be present during the searches.

Everyone at the site must sign the waiver provided by the host and comply with all event requirements.

Handlers are not allowed to watch the searches at any time.

Videotaping and Photography

If the site allows public video to be taken, handlers may wear visible head or chest cameras to record their searches. You will not be allowed extra time at the start line to get your camera functioning. Please be sure it is ready to go prior to arriving at the search area. At ORTs, handlers may bring a spectator to video or photograph their searches. Videos may not be made public until completion of the event day.

Volunteering

Anyone who is not testing is welcome to volunteer. If you know of someone who would like to volunteer, please have them go to our website (xcelcaninetraining.com) under the upcoming events tab to sign up. They can also contact Marissa Breitenstein, rissabreit@gmail.com with questions.

Your time and effort are GREATLY appreciated!

Emergency Veterinary Hospital

The closest emergency veterinarians to the event location:

VCA Castle Shannon Animal Hospital
3610 Library Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15234
(412) 885-2500
8am - 6pm

MedVet Pittsburgh
2810 Washington Rd, McMurray, PA 15317
(724) 717-2273
Open 24 hours

Questions

All Test related questions, contact Marissa Breitenstein, rissabreit@gmail.com.

Details regarding check-in time and briefing will be sent approximately 1 week before the ORT.

**Xcel Canine Training
NACSW™ – Odor Recognition Test**

Sunday, April 12th, 2026

Xcel Canine Training Center, 5400 Progress Blvd, Bethel Park, PA 15102

\$35 per Odor Registration Fee - For form submitted through mail: payment by check only

For online entry:

Submit form online through our website (xcelcaninetraining.com) under the upcoming events tab. When you receive a confirmation email that your entry is accepted, you will be able to send money through PayPal or mail a check.

Please mail this completed form via USPS with your registration fee to:

Marissa Breitenstein
% ORT
428 Reamer Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15106

Questions: Contact: Marissa Breitenstein, rissabreit.com

Odor: Birch Anise Clove

Test date(s): Sunday, April 12th, 2026

Dog's Call Name _____

Breed(s) _____ Dog's NACSW # _____

Handler's Name _____

Handler's NACSW Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone where you can easily be reached _____

E-mail Address _____

Emergency Contact (Name & Phone Number): _____

An ORT must be taken and passed at least 14 days before a trial opening date to be eligible for the first draw period.

Please contact your host at least 1 day before the ORT if your female dog will be in season.

All confirmations will be sent via e-mail with attachment within 7 days of receipt of complete registration form and payment. If you require confirmation via USPS, you must provide a self-addressed stamped envelope.

I/We hereby assume all risks of, and responsibility for, accidents and/or damage to myself or to my property or to others, resulting from the actions of my dog. I/We expressly agree that Xcel Canine Training Center, 5400 Progress Blvd, Bethel Park, PA 15102, and/or NACSW or any other person, or persons, of said groups, shall not be held liable personally, or collectively, under any circumstances, for injury, and/or damage to my person, for loss or injury to my property, whether due to uncontrolled dogs or negligence of any member of said groups, or any other cause, or causes.

Signed: _____ Date: _____