

Vehicles

Vehicle searches require the dog to work in a controlled way that enables the vehicle to be searched but does not cause damage.

It is the handler's responsibility to ensure their dog does not damage any vehicles they search. Scorers should ensure hides do not require dogs to put feet on vehicles where it is not suitable.

When searching interiors of vehicles dogs will need to work independently at times.

When choosing vehicles to search and placing hides the scorer must consider both small and large dogs and the practical aspects of them being able to reach hides. The dogs must be able to access the hides and have a stable surface to work from. Tight areas such as a forklift truck cab are usually unsuitable for hides. Whereas the open back of a van or boot is usually ideal for dogs of all sizes.

Hides will not be removed.

Any found call from the handler, when the dog is indicating within 18cms of the target odour, will be correct. Beyond this the scorer can decide how far from the target odour the dog needs to be for it to be correct. This can be greatly affected by conditions, size of dog, hide location etc. and as all scorers are experienced nosework individuals, judgement will be used. Handlers must remember that a wrong does not mean the target odour is not in that area.

Level 1

Handler knows how many hides.

Hides surface or just below surface.

1 – 3 vehicles (exterior only)

There may be 1 to 4 hides in search (maximum 2 hides per vehicle)

Handlers can return to a vehicle if they wish.

If more than 1 vehicle is used. Each vehicle will have at least 1 target odour on it.

Hides will be at least 80cms apart.

Hides will not be higher than smallest dogs nose height with front paws on the floor, (scorers best guess). If a hide is suitable, it can be moved to allow for different heights of dogs, such as on an item where the entire item can be moved without leaving any residual odour.

Level 2

Handler knows how many hides.

Hides surface or just below surface.

1 – 3 vehicles (exterior only)

There may be 1 to 4 hides in search.

Handlers can return to a vehicle if they wish.

Vehicles can contain no target odours.

Hides will be at least 80cms apart.

Hides will not be higher than smallest dogs nose height with front paws on the floor, (scorers best guess). If a hide is suitable, it can be moved to allow for different heights of

dogs, such as on an item where the entire item can be moved without leaving any residual odour.

Level 3

Handler knows how many hides.

Hides surface or just below surface.

1 – 3 vehicles (doors may be opened and included in search)

There may be 1 to 4 hides in search.

Handlers can return to a vehicle if they wish.

Vehicles can contain no target odours.

Hides will be at least 80cms apart.

Hides will not be higher than smallest dogs nose height with front paws on the floor, (scorers best guess). If a hide is suitable, it can be moved to allow for different heights of dogs, such as on an item where the entire item can be moved without leaving any residual odour.

Level 4

Handler does not know how many hides.

Hides surface or just below surface.

1 – 3 vehicles (doors may be opened and included in search)

There may be 1 to 4 hides in search.

Handlers can return to a vehicle if they wish.

Vehicles can contain no target odours.

Hides will be at least 80cms apart.

Hides will not be higher than smallest dogs nose height with front paws on the floor, (scorers best guess). If a hide is suitable, it can be moved to allow for different heights of dogs, such as on an item where the entire item can be moved without leaving any residual odour.

Level 5

Handler does not know how many hides.

Hides surface or just below surface.

1 – 3 vehicles (doors may be opened and interior areas included in search)

There may be 1 to 6 hides in search.

Handlers can return to a vehicle if they wish.

Vehicles can contain no target odours.

Hides will be at least 80cms apart.

If a vehicle is suitable hides will not be higher than smallest dogs nose height when at full stretch with front feet on a wall or similar, (scorers best guess). The scorer will inform teams what vehicles or areas may require a higher search. If a hide is suitable, it can be moved to allow for different heights of dogs, such as on an item where the entire item can be moved without leaving any residual odour.

Level 6

Handler does not know how many hides.

Hides surface or just below surface.

1 – 3 vehicles (doors may be opened and interior areas included in search)

There may be 1 to 6 hides in search.

Handlers cannot return to a vehicle once they have left it.

Vehicles can contain no target odours.

Hides will be at least 80cms apart.

If a vehicle is suitable hides will not be higher than smallest dogs nose height when at full stretch with front feet on a wall or similar, (scorers best guess). The scorer will inform teams what vehicles or areas may require a higher search. If a hide is suitable, it can be moved to allow for different heights of dogs, such as on an item where the entire item can be moved without leaving any residual odour.

Level 7

Handler does not know how many hides.

Hides surface or just below surface.

1 – 3 vehicles (doors may be opened and interior areas included in search)

Scorer decides number of hides in search.

Handlers cannot return to a vehicle once they have left it.

Vehicles can contain no target odours.

Hides will be at least 80cms apart.

If a vehicle is suitable hides will not be higher than smallest dogs nose height when at full stretch with front feet on a wall or similar, (scorers best guess). The scorer will inform teams what vehicles or areas may require a higher search. If a hide is suitable, it can be moved to allow for different heights of dogs, such as on an item where the entire item can be moved without leaving any residual odour.

Level 8

Handler does not know how many hides.

Hides surface, just below surface or deep.

1 – 3 vehicles (doors may be opened and interior areas included in search)

Scorer decides number of hides in search.

Handlers cannot return to a vehicle once they have left it.

Vehicles can contain no target odours.

Hides will be at least 80cms apart.

If a vehicle is suitable hides will not be higher than smallest dogs nose height when at full stretch with front feet on a wall or similar, (scorers best guess). The scorer will inform teams what vehicles or areas may require a higher search. If a hide is suitable, it can be moved to allow for different heights of dogs, such as on an item where the entire item can be moved without leaving any residual odour.