

# AKC Scent Workshop!

From Linda Dobbie



On October 20, PVSSC held its first AKC Scent Work seminar at the Sutton's Blue Ridge K-9 Training Center in PA. Fifteen members and eighteen dogs attended, plus our schnauzer demonstrators!. Each team was instructed by Pat and Randy Sutton to scent (find) the treat in a row of boxes. The teams were having fun and the dogs were successfully searching for the treats. Even Ollie, the 12-week old puppy, was successful in scenting/searching out the treats. Finding the scent in a box or container is the first or four elements in AKC Novice Scent Work. Those four elements are: Containers, Interior, Exterior and Buried. Each element requires three legs to gain a title.

Randy and Pat Sutton gave the teams a starting point for scent work and the teams went home with a birch scent kit. PVSSC gives a **BIG THANK YOU** to Pat and Randy for hosting the club at their training building.

***So, now where do we go from here?*** Below are the steps suggested by Pat Sutton:

**Step 1** Get your dog used to finding the treat. When found, "jackpot" the success by adding more treats to the box along with praise. Next, add more boxes so the dog is searching for the treats. I went from 3 boxes to start, to 4 or 5 boxes to make searching the goal. Mix up the boxes. **REMEMBER only use one box (the hot box) for the treats. You do not want lingering scent in other boxes.**

**Step 2** When the dog successfully searches for the treat, add the birch scent tin and the treats to the hot box. The box is still open. This is called "pairing." You are now introducing the birch scent with the treat. As the dog dips his head in the box for the treat, he smells the birch and gets a treat. The dog makes the connection that scenting the birch and the treat together is success. Again, jackpot the dog for a successful find. This step may take a while. Take your time.  
After successful finds, now you can close the boxes, but still pair the birch and the treats. If the dog finds the correct hot box, give the treat in your hand beside the box so the dog is still getting the scent of the birch. **It is a fault to drop treats on the floor. Be careful. Remember, the goal is to find the birch scent at an AKC Trial.** Each dog is an individual and each step may be faster for some dogs and not others. Gradually add more boxes until you have two rows of 5 boxes. Make sure you read the rule book to correctly place the boxes.

**Step 3 Closed boxes.** Only the birch tin is in the closed hot box. The dog must successfully find the birch scent. If the dog is not successful at any time during training.... GO BACK TO PAIRING the treat and the birch scent.

These above steps may help PVSSC members to get started at home. Pat Sutton suggests a follow up clinic after the holiday and a run through to iron out problems. Pat and Randy do hold C-Wags scent trials at their training building on a regular basis. This where Lisa and I learned how to compete. Try it!

***Anyway, the NOSE KNOWS.....keep on Scenting!***



# SCENTWORK CLINIC PHOTOS!



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