

Ms. Judith Powell, Field Director of Scent Work
The American Kennel Club, Inc.
101 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10178-0002
Via electronic mail: scentwork@akc.org

Dear Ms Powell:

The results of our Scent Work Participant Survey, which we had previously provided to you, highlighted a number of issues. The first was the lack of a National Championship. Since we last wrote, you have scheduled the AKC Scent Work Master National – thank you! Participants wanted a change to the buried search, and/or its replacement with a different element. With the AKC Board approving a revision to the amount of sand required in buried containers you have also dealt with the requested change to the Buried Search Element. Reducing the amount of sand required won't satisfy everyone but it is a great compromise. The change will make it much easier for clubs to set up the buried search element. Again, thank you!

We would now like to reiterate the other requests. First, the addition of Numeric Detective titles. Earning a Detective title is quite an accomplishment. Earning multiple Detective titles is a very impressive accomplishment which should be recognized by the AKC. Doing so would cross another item off Scent Work participants' wish list.

Next, Scent Work competitors are overwhelmingly in favor of the development of a Scent Work Champion title similar to Agility's RACH title. We believe a Champion title would benefit AKC because it would keep participants involved with the sport pursuing another title, instead of leaving to pursue titles with other organizations. The survey results and comments showed varying opinions on what should be required to earn a Champion title. A lot of thought and discussion will be needed to develop a Champion title. We continue to urge the assembly of a working group of competitors and judges to develop the requirements for a Champion title and would be glad to provide you with a pool of volunteers and their qualifications from whom you could choose, just to expedite the process. The group can meet virtually, but the AKC would need to designate an official liaison that could provide direction and feedback on behalf of the organization.

Lastly, there are experienced judges who are willing to set up and maintain a "judges only" Facebook page which judges could use to ask questions and provide best practices information. The goal of the restricted membership site would be to improve the quality and consistency of Scent Work judging, but to be effective it would require the participation of an official AKC representative.

Scent Work competitors and judges are not just willing but eager to volunteer their time and energy on these projects. Everyone wants to see the sport continue to grow and improve.

Is the AKC willing to move forward with these items? If so, how can we help? If not, are there objections you'd be willing to share, things with which we might be able to help?

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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Scent Work participant, Scent Work club member

electronic copies to:

- Ms. Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events caroline.murphy@akc.org
- The AKC's HECS Committee, % Ms. Carol Fisher cfisher23@verizon.net