



ASSISTANT TIPS

OFFICIATING THE SEARCH

For online entries with blind hides, the Assistant sets the hides and officiates the search, responding with a "YES" or "NO" when the handler calls "ALERT". Assistants must determine what will constitute as a "YES" call and what will constitute as a "NO" call for each individual hide.

In formal Scent Work trials, these calls are made by experienced and talented officials who have extensive expertise in reading environments, understanding what odor may be doing in any given moment and so on. These "correct call areas" may even be determined by an agreement between the hide setting official and the official making the "YES" or "NO" calls, depending on the trialing organization.

Since Cyber Scent Work does not require Assistants to be certified or approved, we urge them to lean more toward saying "YES" than "NO".

Some examples may include:

- The hide is set on the upper spoke of a vehicle hubcap. The dog sniffs the center of the hubcap and shows a change of behavior. The participant calls "ALERT". This should be a "YES" call.
- The hide is set on the underside of a chair toward the front of the seat. The dog hits on the chair from the side but is clearly sniffing the underside of the seat. The participant calls "ALERT". This should be a "YES" call.
- The hide is set inside a closed storage shed for an exterior search as an inaccessible hide. The hide is placed near the hinge, but the dog hits on the bottom corner of the door below the hinge. Should be a "YES" call.

WHEN TO CALL "WHERE?"

Should a participant call "ALERT" and the Assistant is unclear where exactly this is, the Assistant should respond with "WHERE?" to get more information.



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Once the participant indicates exactly where they are calling "ALERT", typically by pointing, the Assistant should then respond with either "YES" or "NO".

Here is an example of when this can happen:

- Dog shows interest in a chair where the hide is located but the participant does not call "ALERT". The dog moves off and starts sniffing a completely different chair. The participant is still looking at the correct chair and then calls "ALERT". It is unclear where they are calling "ALERT", the chair they are looking at or the chair the dog is now investigating. Therefore, the Assistant should respond with "WHERE?".

IMPORTANCE OF PROMPT RESPONSES

Once a participant has called "Alert", the Assistant must promptly respond with "YES", "NO" or "WHERE". Any delay may cause the participant to become confused, re-cue their dog to search or for the dog leave the hide.

Assistants should ensure to respond in a clear manner so that the participant will be able to hear. This is especially important during searches held outdoors or in large, expansive search areas.