

If you take the smelling glands out of a human nose and flatten them with a hammer - it would cover your face.

If you took them from a dog and flatten them with a hammer - they would cover his whole body.

To me, tracking is the ultimate adventure. It is the only canine discipline where the dog is in control.

My dogs love to track, they love the wide open spaces and the opportunity to show me how clever they are.

And even on those days when they don't actually find the track-layer - we still have fun trying.

In competition the dog has to follow the scent of a human, negotiate changes in direction, find or indicate articles dropped along the track, and find the person at the end of the track.

The dog must follow the scent along the ground - "air scenting" is not allowed.

The level of competition determines the -

Length of the track

Number of directional changes

Number of articles

Time frame set for the track to "age" before the dog is allowed to begin

Tracking is the ultimate adventure. It is the only canine discipline where the dog is in control. The handler must trust their dog to lead them on the correct path.

The dog works on a harness attached to a 10 metre lead. Where the terrain allows, the lead must be let out to its full length. Dogs are not allowed to run, a steady controlled pace is preferred. There is no set time limit on the test, however if the dog is not "working" it will be called off the track by the Judge and will not be awarded a pass.

There are 5 gradings -

Fail

Pass

Good

Very Good

Excellent

There are 7 levels of competition -

Track 1

Track 2

Track 3 - "Tracking Dog" Title (suffix - TD)

Track 4

Track 5

Track 6 - "Tracking Dog Excellent" Title (suffix - TDX)

Track 7 - "Tracking Champion" (prefix - Tch)