

PHASE 1 - Tracking Training Program



What is a Scent Pad?

An area in a grassy field where when trampled a noticeable imprint is left. In the early stages the Scent Pads are usually 1 meter by 1 meter. In the latter stages the Scent Pads are usually ½ meter by ½ meter.

Training musts:

- > Play with your dog for at least five (5) minutes before approaching the first scent pad, using a ball is best.
- > While tracking in the scent pad keep the enthusiasm between you and your dog at a very high level. Remember to encourage your dog, track with your dog, praise your dog, you're a team.
- > After your dog finds the last piece of food, double praise your dog and leave the scent pad area and play with your dog, play ball with your dog, change his focus, get really excited, both of you did good.
- > Wait 2-3 minutes before proceeding to the next scent pad.

Phase 1

Phase 1 entails laying 3 scent pads 3 times a day for 10 days.

Day 1 – Early Morning

- > Lay 3 scent pads with 10 pieces of food in each, wait for 15-20 minutes. Take your dog to the first scent pad and when he starts to work his nose (searching for food) give the command to track (such), work with your dog as you're a team.
- > When your dog goes outside the boundary, stand still and wait for him to return to the scent area. He will soon figure out that it is the crushed vegetation that brings him food. When he starts searching again, you can give the command to track (such), lots of praise for good work.
- > After your dog finds the last piece of food, double praise your dog and leave the scent pad area and play with your dog, change his focus, get really excited, both of you did good.
- > After about 1 minute or so proceed to the next scent pad.
- > Do the second and third pads the same as the first pad.

Day 1 - Early Evening

- > Lay 3 scent pads with 10 pieces of food in each, wait for 15-20 minutes.
- > Same procedure as you did in the am.

Day 1 - Late Evening

- > Lay 3 scent pads with 10 pieces of food in each, wait for 15-20 minutes.
- > Same procedure as you did in the am.

Day 2, 3, 4 and 5

- > Same as Day 1.

Day 6, 7 and 8

- > Same as Day 1 except for the number of pieces of food, reduce them to 7.

Day 9 and 10

- > Same as Day 1 except for the number of pieces of food, reduce them to 5.

Tips

- > Remember to keep your enthusiasm very high. This will spill over to your dog.
- > Remember you're a team, and you are the encourager.
- > Remember that lots of praise from you will bring lots of joy to your dog.