

National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC®

Official NACSW™

ODOR RECOGNITION TESTS

Odors Tested: Birch, Anise, Clove

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Test Location:

Stillwater County Pavilion
328 E 5th Ave N Columbus MT 59019 United States

Test Host: Canine Connection

Test Host Contact Info: Nikki Markle

Day of Host: Kathy Siegrist

Certifying Official: Nikki Markle

Judge: Crystal Arnold

Entry Cost: \$30/odor

Number of Entries: 100

To keep groups small at this time, we may split the ORT into two groups. One group will run in the morning and one in the afternoon

ORT ENTRY INFORMATION

Opening Date: Saturday February 21, 2026 at [9 AM/PM MST]

Entries Close: When entry limits have been met

Second Dog Policy: Two dogs per handler for each odor tested.

Entry Method

- Entries Must Be Made On The Attached Entry Form.
- No Entry Shall Be Made And No Entry Shall Be Accepted, Which Specifies Any Conditions As To Its Acceptance.
- Owners Are Responsible For Errors In Making Out Entry Forms.

Entry Requirements

A Qualified Entry is one that meets all the following criteria:

1. Complete entry during the specified entry time frame.
2. The Handler is a NACSW member for the 2025-2026 membership year (8/1/24- 7/31/25).
3. The Dog is registered with the NACSW.
4. Dogs participating in an Odor Recognition Test (ORT) must be at least six months of age.

For Exhibit Only Dogs (FEO): Dogs running FEO are not eligible to receive titles. FEO results will not be included in the posted ORT results. If space remains after all qualified entries are accommodated on February 28, 2026, then we will offer spaces for those who wish to run a dog (FEO). Dogs may only run FEO in odors that they are *not* already registered for.

For information on how to register or become a member go to www.NACSW.net

[Register by clicking this link](#)

Trial Eligibility and ORTs

The ORT Title must be earned at least 14 days before a trial opening date to be eligible for the first draw period.

All odors must be passed in order to earn the ORT title. It is not required that they all be passed at the same test.

Notification

Acknowledgement of entry acceptance/confirmation, will be the copy of your form you receive after completing it online, payment will secure your entry.

Basic Description of the Test

To successfully pass an ORT a dog must identify the location of the target odor, and the handler must correctly call an "alert" within a **two minute 30 second (2:30)** time period. The Odor Recognition Test consists of a drill type exercise which requires 12 closed boxes typically set up in a pattern of two rows, spaced a **minimum of 36" apart**. The ORT is conducted on leash. Complete information can be obtained on the NACSW website. Handlers may test on all 3 odors at the same event.

*All exhibitors should obtain and review a copy of the **NACSW K9 NOSE WORK® RULE BOOK**. You may get it from their website: www.NACSW.net*

No dog will be given more than one space in the same odor test at a single event.

CANCELLATION POLICY

The following cancellation policy applies:

- For cancellation of entries on or before March 7th, 9AM MST– Full refund
- For cancellation of entries between March 7th at 9AM MST and before March 19th, 9AM MST– Full refund minus a \$25 processing fee if the host fills your space. No refund will be issued if the host doesn't fill your space. If the space is filled with a discounted or free entry, you will receive a refund dependent on the income from the replacement entry.
- For cancellation of entries after March 19 9AM MST– 50% of the trial entry fee will be refunded if the host fills your space. No refund will be issued if the host doesn't fill your space. If the space is filled with a discounted or free entry, you will receive a refund dependent on the income from the replacement entry.

All cancellations must be emailed to nikki.canine.connection@gmail.com

Revised 12/6/24

Entry fees shall not be refunded if a dog or handler is absent, disqualified, or excused by the NACSW official or judge.

This cancellation and refund policy applies to handlers that must withdraw for any reason including but not limited to injury, illness, emergency, and personal or work-related reasons.

If the event cannot take place or be completed by reason of fire, civil disturbances, an Act of God, public emergency, or any other cause beyond the control of the event organizers, then the event host will make their best effort to provide partial refunds after recouping their expenses.

LOCATION DETAILS

ADA Site Specific Conditions

This event is at the old fairgrounds on cement flooring. Parking is on pavement with little shade.

Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, these conditions may be modified at the last minute.

Modeled after real-life detection work, NACSW events are held in many different locations, with a variety of terrain, under varying weather conditions. Dogs and handlers need to be able to safely negotiate a variety of surfaces, including, but not limited to, tile, linoleum, carpeting, gravel, asphalt, uneven surfaces, and slippery footing. Handlers should be prepared to deal with a variety of weather conditions, including heat, cold, rain and snow. Events frequently require covering extensive distances to get to and from the parking area to each of the search areas and generally require that this be done across natural, uneven surfaces. Handlers should be prepared for physical demands and must be able to navigate the terrain with their dog accordingly. Handlers should expect to spend most of the day outside or in their vehicles as there are rarely indoor crating options at events. Please be prepared for you and your canine partner to deal with all of these varying environmental challenges. Handlers should familiarize themselves with potential regional risks and health concerns that may affect themselves or their dogs. Handlers agree that they are entering this event at their own risk.

Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, the details below may need to be modified at the last minute.

Parking

Most parking is on pavement with little shade. Overflow is on gravel.

RV Parking

There is space for RVs to park in the graveled handlers parking area during the event day. To reserve a space, you will need to contact the Test Host Contact/Secretary after you receive confirmation that you have a space in the event. No overnight RV parking is available.

Reactive Dog Parking

If your dog needs more space, there is a paved lot across the street that you may use for parking, but no separate potty areas will be available.

Unentered Dogs

Unentered dogs must remain in the handler's vehicle during the event day. There will be ample potty areas, but unentered dogs should not be allowed to "play", exercise, or train on the event grounds.

Facility/Site Prohibitive Restrictions (e.g., smoking, firearms, alcohol, drugs, video)

Alcohol is not allowed on this event site. Smoking is not allowed on this event site. Firearms are prohibited on the property.

Hotels

Columbus, MT has a few small hotels and a Super 8. You get a group rate at the Super 8 if you use this link http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/03851?corporate_id=1000087542 The Super 8 is newly remodeled and clean. The dog area is quite small, but there is a nice trail and walking park very close nearby.

DOG INFORMATION

Dog Policies

- All dogs must always be on a 6' leash when not searching. NO flexi-leashes while not participating in a search.
- Reactive and/or spatially challenged dogs should wear a red bandana (to be provided by the dog's handler) to help signal others that the dog needs extra space from other dogs.
- Dogs will be toileted in designated areas and handlers must pick up and dispose of waste.
- Dogs and handlers must stay in designated areas to avoid contaminating search space, interrupting a search, or from viewing any part of the search.
- Handlers should expect to keep their dogs confined in a crate or vehicle when not searching. The logistics of an event typically do not allow for dogs to hang out on leash in between searches. Handlers should plan to provide their own shade using canopies or shade cloths.
- Refer to location details (above) for information on unentered dogs.

Females in Season

Females in season will be allowed to run wearing "pants" at the very end of the day after all other dogs have tested. Handlers with females in season should park and toilet their dogs away from the other dogs if the location logistics permit. Handlers must email the Nikki so plans can be made for the dog. Your dog will run last.

OTHER INFORMATION

COVID-19 Information

Event attendees are required to adhere to the NACSW [COVID-19 Event Guidelines and Rules](#). In addition to those guidelines the following changes and guidelines are in effect for this test due to COVID-19. There are currently no travel or mask restrictions for this area. If there are any significant changes or updates after the draw period, handlers will be notified via email. Handlers are responsible for staying up to date on any jurisdictional requirements for their home location as well as the event location including any travel guidance.

ADA Requests

If you are an individual with a disability and would like to request accommodation(s), please email ADA@nacsw.net. Please include your name, ORT date, ORT host name, and your requested accommodation(s).

Rules

Complete rules are available at www.NACSW.net. **It is the responsibility of each handler to read and understand the current NACSW™ Rule book prior to participating in a NACSW event.**

Liability

By registering for the event, the handler hereby assumes all risks of, and responsibility for, accidents and/or damage to
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her/himself or to her/his property or to others **or the property of others**, resulting from the actions of her/his dog. The handler expressly agree that the NACSW, Canine Connection, Nikki Markle and its assignees or any other person, or persons, of said groups, shall not be held liable personally, or collectively, under any circumstances, for injury, and/or damage to her/himself, for loss, injury, **or damage** to property, whether due to uncontrolled dogs or negligence of any member of said groups, or any other cause, or causes. The handler also agrees to assume all financial liability that may be incurred by the NACSW, **Canine Connection and its assignees or any other person, or persons, of said groups** due to the actions of themselves or their dogs regardless of the cause.

Sportsmanship

All handlers and spectators are expected to follow the rules of the NACSW and demonstrate good sportsmanship. This includes making sure the hide placements are unknown to the handler prior to searching and kept secret from other handlers. Please do not discuss hide placement or any details of a dog's performance that may provide information or clues to other handlers or may be overheard.

Results

During the odor re-sets, the official results sheet will be brought out to the parking area for handlers to photo or review. We recommend you verify your results on the official results sheet and let your host or judge know if you have any questions regarding your results.

Spectators

Additional guests of handlers are welcome, however spectating opportunities may be limited to one spectator. Please verify attendance policies with the Test Host before bringing or inviting anyone not volunteering, handling, or officiating.

Spectators are reminded that the hide placements must not be discussed, nor should they speak with any handlers about what they saw until after the event is complete.

No dogs will be allowed in the spectator area. No unentered dogs with spectators are allowed at the event.

An adult accompanying a minor must be present during the searches.

Everyone at the site must sign the waiver provided by the host and comply with all event requirements.

Handlers are not allowed to watch the searches at any time.

Videotaping and Photography

If the site allows public video to be taken, handlers may wear visible head or chest cameras to record their searches. You will not be allowed extra time at the start line to get your camera functioning. Please be sure it is ready to go prior to arriving at the search area. At ORTs, handlers may bring a spectator to video or photograph their searches. Videos may not be made public until completion of the event day.

Emergency Veterinary Hospital

The closest emergency veterinarian(s) to the event location:

Clarity Animal Hospital
1475 41st Street West
Billings, MT 59106
406-651-5615

Moore Lane Veterinary Hospital
30 Moore Ln.
Billings, MT59101
(406) 252-4159

Questions

All Test related questions, contact Nikki nikki.canine.connection@gmail.com

Details regarding check-in time and briefing will be sent approximately 1 week before the ORT.

[Register by clicking this link](#)

