



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™



Performance Events Department

September 2025

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Scent Work Events and Approved Judges**

Subject: **Revised Specs to Buried Searches**

This communication is to inform your club of a change made to the *Regulations for AKC Scent Work*. The change pertains to the specifications on the amount of sand that must be used in Buried Classes as well as redefine what constitutes a “scent vessel” for Buried Classes where water is required. Specifically, this change would allow Buried Classes where sand is the substrate, to use one inch of sand covering the scent vessel. The scent vessel can range from one inch to two inches. This recommendation will reduce the weight of the buried container.

This change goes into effect starting October 1, 2025. The exact wording of these changes are noted below and will be added to the *Regulations for AKC Scent Work* booklet upon the next reprinting.

Chapter 7. Requirements Applying to All Classes

Section 5. Placement of Odors. The scent aid must always be placed inside a scent vessel, which is then hidden in the search area, except that in buried searches when using water, the scent vessel is defined as a cotton swab which may or may not have scent. Only one (1) scent aid may be used per scent vessel, and only one (1) scent vessel may be used per hide.

Chapter 7. Odor Search Division

Section 7. Buried Searches. (3rd paragraph)

Classes that utilize sand must only use “play sand.” Classes that utilize water must use potable (drinking-quality) water. The scent vessel for the sand boxes must be a round, mesh, tea ball/tea infuser approximately at least 1 inch in diameter but no more than 2 inches in diameter, depending on the amount of sand used, and made of stainless steel. The scent vessel for the water boxes will serve as a scented cotton swab itself which will be dropped in the water and allowed to sink to the bottom of the box. ~~must be a segment of opaque tubing, secured to the bottom of the box with suction cup clips.~~

Buried Novice Class: Six tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in two rows of three, at least 36 inches apart. The search area must be at least 150 but not more than 200 square feet. Each box will be filled equally, with enough sand that the buried scent vessel ~~will~~ must be covered with at least 1 inch ~~four inches~~ of sand. A box must be filled with a minimum of 2 inches of sand or maximum of 3 inches of sand. The size of the infuser used must be proportional to the amount of sand used thereby allowing at least 1 inch of sand to sit above the infuser which is placed on of the floor of the box.

Below are examples of acceptable fill levels proportionate to infuser sizes and correct amount of sand sitting above the vessel for reference:

If you fill to:

3" of sand and use a 2" infuser you will have 1" above the vessel.

2" of sand and use a 1" infuser you will have 1" above the vessel.

The specifications for filling boxes with sand shall remain the same for all difficulty levels of Buried Class searches.

Buried Advanced Class: Eight tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 36 inches apart. The search area must be at least 200 but not more than 400 square feet. Each box will be filled equally, with enough water that the submerged scent vessel will be covered with four inches of water. Each of the boxes will have a scent vessel sitting on ~~affixed to~~ the bottom.

Buried Excellent Class: Twelve tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 36 inches apart. The search area must be at least 300 but not more than 400 square feet. Six of the boxes must contain sand, and six must contain water. The specifications on filling the required boxes with sand for Buried Excellent are the same as described under Buried Novice and must be followed. Each box requiring water will be filled equally with enough water ~~material~~ that the scent vessel is covered with four inches of water ~~material~~. The boxes containing water will each have a scent vessel sitting on ~~affixed to~~ the bottom, which may or may not conceal one of the target odors.

Buried Master Class: Sixteen tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 36 inches apart. The search area must be at least 400 but not more than 500 square feet. Eight of these boxes must contain sand, and eight must contain water. The specifications on filling the required boxes with sand for Buried Master are the same as described under Buried Novice and must be followed. Each box requiring water will be filled equally with enough water ~~material~~ that the scent vessel is covered with four inches of water ~~material~~. The boxes containing water will each have a scent vessel sitting on ~~affixed to~~ the bottom, which may or may not conceal one of the target odors.