



**National Association of Canine Scent Work, LLC®
Official NACSW™
ODOR RECOGNITION TESTS**

Odors Tested: Birch, Anise, Clove

Date: Sunday, October 18, 2026

Test Site Hours: 8:00am to 3:00pm

Test Location: Smartydog Center, 312 East Johnson Ave. Cheshire, CT

Test Host: Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club,

Test Host Contact Info: Melinda Harvey caodeagua@mac.com

Test Secretary: Melinda Harvey caodeagua@mac.com

Certifying Official: Loreen Kennedy

Judge: Amy Matthieu

Entry Cost: 35.00

Number of Entries: 100

ORT ENTRY INFORMATION

Opening Date: July 30, 2026 at 12:00pm EST

Entries Close: October 5, 2026 at 5:00pm or When entry limits have been met

Second Dog Policy: We will not be doing second dogs. We will be doing one dog only per handler.

Entry Method

First received By USPS, Mail overnight deliveries must have the signature waived box checked. Telephone, Fax, Unsigned Entries, And Entries Received Without Fees Cannot Be Accepted.

- Returned Checks Do Not Constitute A Valid Entry Fee.
- 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.
- Express Mail Entries Must Include Signature Permitting them to be left at the secretary's address without the recipient's signature.

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 2026-2027 membership year (8/1/26- 7/31/27).
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 information on how to register or become a member go to www.NACSW.net

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 made by email when entries are processed for those handlers that provide an email address. If you require confirmation via USPS, you must provide a self-addressed stamped envelope with your entry. Your payment receipt and notification are confirmation of your completed 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

- For cancellation of entries before 5pm October 5– full refund
- For Cancellation of entries after 5pm October 5– no refunds will be issued.

All cancellations must be emailed to the Melinda Harvey, caodeagua@mac.com.

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 test location is a dog training facility which is accessible to all. The flooring is textured tile.

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

The parking lot is paved with no shade available. There is additional parking on grass if needed.

RV Parking

There is space for RVs to park in the handlers parking area during the event day. No overnight RV parking is available.

Running Vehicles or Generators in the parking lot

The parking is ample at this location but running your vehicles or generators in the parking lot is not allowed at this event.

Reactive Dog Parking

There will not be specific reactive dog parking at this event.

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.

Crating Options

There is no indoor crating. Please plan to work out of your vehicles.

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

Alcohol is not allowed at this event site.

Smoking is not allowed on this event site

Firearms are prohibited on the property.

Hotels

Homewood Suites by Hilton

Hamden Hotel and Suites (203) 288-3831

Holiday Inn, Cheshire (860) 276-3100

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 are allowed to participate in ORTs. If there is a bitch in season participating in the ORT, she must wear panties and will run at the end of each odor.

Handlers with females in season should park and toilet their dogs away from the other dogs if the location logistics permit. Handlers must email Melinda Harvey at caodeagua@mac.com so plans can be made for the dog.

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.

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 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, Nutmeg PWD Club, Inc 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, **Nutmeg PWD Club, Inc, Smartydog Center 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

There is no general spectating at an ORT. Handlers in an ORT may not be spectators for other Handlers regardless of relationship (with the exception of a minor testing after the accompanying adult tests).

Spectating will be allowed per ORT guidelines as outlined in the rule book. The ORT Certifying Official has the right to limit spectators at their discretion. ORT participants may have a friend or family member video/photograph their test. ORT participants may not video/photograph one another. Children under 18 must always be directly supervised by a parent/guardian. No dogs will be allowed in the spectator area. No unentered dogs with spectators are allowed at the test.

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.

Revised 1/26/26

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

VCA Cheshire Animal Hospital, 1572 South Main St. Cheshire, Ct 06410. (203) 272-3266

Questions

All Test related questions, contact Melinda Harvey caodeagua@mac.com

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

Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club
NACSW™ – Odor Recognition Test

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Smartydog Center, 312 East Johnson Ave. Cheshire, CT

\$35.00 Registration Fee Per Odor - Payment by personal or bank check only. Make checks out to Nutmeg PWD Club, Inc.

**Please mail this completed form via USPS with your registration fee to:
Melinda Harvey, 410 Cherry Brook Rd. Canton, CT 06019**

Questions: Contact: Melinda Harvey, caodeagua@mac.com

Odor: ☐ Birch ☐ Anise ☐ Clove

Test date(s): Sunday October 18, 2026

Dog's Call Name _____

Breed(s) _____ **Dog's NACSW #** _____

Handler's Name _____

Handler's NACSW Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone where you can easily be reached _____

E-mail Address _____

Emergency Contact (Name & Phone Number): _____

An ORT must be taken and passed at least 14 days before a trial opening date to be eligible for the first draw period.

Please contact your host at least 1 day before the ORT if your female dog will be in season.

All confirmations will be sent via e-mail with attachment within 7 days of receipt of complete registration form and payment. If you require confirmation via USPS, you must provide a self-addressed stamped envelope.

I/We hereby assume all risks of, and responsibility for, accidents and/or damage to myself or to my property or to others, resulting from the actions of my dog. I/We expressly agree that Nutmeg PWD Club, Inc, Smartydog Center, and/or NACSW 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 my person, for loss or injury to my property, whether due to uncontrolled dogs or negligence of any member of said groups, or any other cause, or causes.

Signed: _____ Date: _____