



**Spring 2010  
(Fall tests 2009)**

**President: Marie-P Babin**  
autumwynd@sympatico.ca

**Vice-President: Eileen Fisher**  
eileenfi@sympatico.ca

**Secretary: Maryke Warwick**  
maryke5024@rogers.com

**Treasurer: Bev Wiggans**  
bwiggans@wcshighspeed.com

**Social: Dorothy Phillips**  
db.phillips@sympatico.ca

**Equipment: Frank Downs**  
frankdowns@rogers.com

**Newsletter Editors:**  
Maryke Warwick  
Marie-P Babin



Cross Country Tracking Club had a 10 dog TD test Oct. 4, 2009 in Bowmanville On. With some rain the day before, the fields were really nice.

The first 3 tracks were in hay/clover no more than 8"-10" high and the last 7 tracks were in taller hay, alfalfa and clover.

Thank you to Sharon Smith to have come Judge for us. Always nice to have you here at CCTC, Sharon.

Our pass rate was 40%.

Thanks to all our tracklayers; Jackie Meharg, Laura McKay, Norma King, Rosie Van Bommel, Candy Rennie and Sue Godbehere. Thanks to Bev Wiggans for the HQ and for her famous "Berries in a Cloud" desert.

Maryke Warwick made sure our chili and clam chowder was hot for lunch and Frank Downs, got all the flags tied up .

Carmspack Rogan Bax TD German Shepherd Dog (1 yr old female) owned by Andrea Thomas of Whitby On. PASS !! (Club Member)

CH. Victory's Bean With The Devil CD RE AGI TD Wire Haired Dachshund ( 3 yr. old male) owned by Eileen Fisher of Markham On. PASS !! (Club Member)

CH Autumwynd Midnite N Jorja CD WC JH RE TD Labrador Retriever (4 yr. old female) owned by Marie-P Babin of Ajax On. PASS !! (Club Member)

Fairfax All Fired Up TD Shetland Sheepdog (2 yr. old female) owned by Ginny Neher of Sharon On. PASS !! {not in the picture}



Tracklayers for the TD test.  
Candy Rennie  
Laura McKay  
Sharon Smith (judge)  
Rosie Van Bommel  
Sue Godbehere  
Norma King

TDX Test Nov. 8, 2009



The weather was great for us people, sunshine all day and we started out with the first dog with 15 degrees and it got warmer as the day went on.

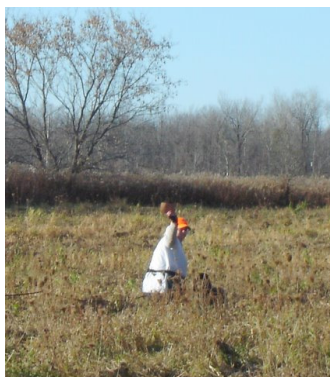
Seven dogs were entered in the TDX test but only one passed.....it was on track # 6

"CH. Blue Moon My Sweet Hemi TDX UTD" English Cocker Spaniel male 5 year old , owned by Karen Schwager of Lasalle Ont. & Cortney Oliver. Handled by Karen. PASS !! Congratulations.

Thanks to all the tracklayers the test ran smoothly.

Mirkka Koivusalo, Eileen Fisher, Laura McKay, Sandy Brodie, Candy Rennie, Anne Frost, Pamela Burns.Plus, some also did crosstracks for each other and crosstracks also done by Joseph Weir. Frank Downs who gathers up all the flags and bundles them up ready for next test.

Thanks also to Bev Wiggans, we have our HQ for lunch Judge of the day, Marie-P Babin



NAMBR Judge  
Eileen Fisher



UTD, UTDX Test Nov. 29, 2009



Great weather, great tracklayers, great dogs and handlers but only one UTD Passed and one UTDX Passed .  
Once we were all finished and a couple pics taken, the rain started... Very lucky with that !!

We had 4 UTD dogs entered.one pass.

B-Line's Supernova CGN CD TDX MH WCX UTD "Star" (Labrador Retriever female) 4 yrs old .  
Owned by Pat Van Bregt & Chris Bales Handled by Pat of Ancaster Ont. Great tracker !! PASSED !!

We had 7 UTDX dogs entered. One pass.

NEW TRACKING CHAMPION !! (German Shepherd Dog female) 6 yrs old.  
TCH. Xtreme Petra Von Narnia owned by Suzanne Rossignol of Pontiac Quebec.  
Nice job !!

Tracklayers ;

Joseph Weir, Andrea Thomas, Eileen Fisher, Sue Godbehere, Maryke Warwick, Laura McKay, Andrea Lister and Candy Rennie .

Marie-P Babin Judge of the Day





On an unseasonably warm November 22 the 8th NAMBR-sanctioned Courtice area TD and TDX tests were held, with the assistance of the Cross Country Tracking Club.

Eileen Fisher of Markham judged for us, this was her debut assignment. Although new to judging, Eileen is certainly not new to tracking, having earned six tracking titles on four dogs (and hopefully a UTDX for Kavik next weekend!)

We had a good turnout with four TD and two TDX entries.

The first TD was completed in about ten minutes by Shiloh Shepherd Checkmate's

King of Atlantis. "Titan", at ten months of age demonstrated a very exuberant style, but had a good nose and knew what he was out there for. Congratulations to Kailah Clarke. Titan is Kailah's first dog.

The second TD was earned by Holly, a seven year old Jack Russell Terrier owned by Ricki Abrams and handled by Marie P Babin. Holly gave her handler a few moments of worry when she decided that there were things on the track that needed to be rolled on, but once she got that out of the way she carried on, with nice corners and a quick turn around and drop on the article. I guess she wanted to see the look on Marie's face at the end of the track.

Congratulations to Ricki and Marie.

The third TD was earned by two year old Border Collie TNT Blown Away. I was not able to watch this team, and when I asked for a description of their track, I was told "FAST"! "Zephyr" went past the second corner, but quickly found it, and continued on to find the glove. Congratulations to Liane Smail.

Head Quarter provided by club member Bev Wiggans

And a very big thank you to tracklayers Candy Rennie, Rosie Van Bommel, Deb Mahon, Rob Mahon; marshal Maryke Warwick, equipment coordinator Frank Downs; and our judge Eileen Fisher.



Well deserved rest for Holly !!



Tracklayers

Written by Sue Godbehere

## CCTC Members' Brags..



CH. SR. Autumnwynd Midnite N Jorja CDX WC JH RE TD  
 "Jorja" earned her TD in Oct. & her CDX in Dec. 2009  
 Marie-P Babin



CH. Victory's Bean With The Devil CD TD RE AGI AGIJ  
 "Dexter" earned his TD & RE in Oct. & Am. RA in Nov.  
 2009  
 Eileen Fisher



Carmspack Rogan Bax TD  
 "Rogan" earned her TD Oct, 2009  
 Andrea Thomas



Holly CD TD  
 "Holly" earned her NAMBR TD Nov. 2009  
 Ricki Abrams

## CCTC Brags cont...

Submitted by Eileen Fisher on behalf of Kennie  
Victory's Mackenzie RAE

On Saturday, Kennie completed the highest level of Rally obedience, the RAE. To obtain the RAE, you have to qualify in both Rally Advanced and Rally Excellent in the same trial.

You have to do this ten times.

At this point in time very few dogs have completed this title and I am sure that Kennie, once again, is  
The only Dachshund to do so in Canada.

Rally Obedience is popular because you can talk to your dog throughout the test. After going so far in formal obedience, where this is not the case, I decided to do Rally with her so that we could communicate in this way.

She loved it and responded well to my words of encouragement. By the time she got her RE (Rally Excellent title)

She was 12 but still in great shape and loving being in the ring. I therefore decided to continue with her in the RAE

Tests. Guess what, we had no sooner started than her hearing began to deteriorate!!! By the time we were half way through, she couldn't hear any words of encouragement at all. The upside was that she couldn't hear any distracting noises either!!!

Competing in tests both inside and outside she completed the tenth combination with scores of 99 and 97.

She is now officially retired from obedience but still enjoys training sessions and continues to work in open and utility exercises.

She is working on her memoirs, entitled, "If You Can't Beat It Eat It"



**CH. Jubilee Dark Side Of The Moon CD, HT, HCT-s CKC HS, STD-D, STD-s**

"Sky" earned the following titles in 2009  
(CKC) CH. HS, CD (ASCA) STD-d, STD-s, (AHBA) HCT-s

Sharon Palmer

**CCTC Members' Brags cont...**



**"Spider" AGDC MADC MJDC MSCDC N-JE RNCL**

Spider earned his Master Agility Dog of Canada, Advanced Games Dog of Canada and Master Steeplechase Dog of Canada titles at the Muskoka Agility Dogs trial in Huntsville this past September.

Sue Godbehere



**CH. Beadog Dandylion At Elliquin CDX WC RE**  
"Layla" earned her CDX Oct. 2009

Maryke Warwick



**MOTCh Bridgeton's Too Hot To Handle TD MH  
WCX Am. WCX TD UD**

Multiple High in Trials & 200 scores.  
Won the HIT at the Georgina Trial Nov. 2009 with a "200"

Pamela Martin



**Kjaq's At Heart Lexus CDX CGN TD**

"Lexi" earned her CDX Nov. 2009 She was also awarded the Rottweiler Club of Canada's Wayne Buck Memorial trophy for the HQS Rottweiler in the trial.

Cynthia Thomas

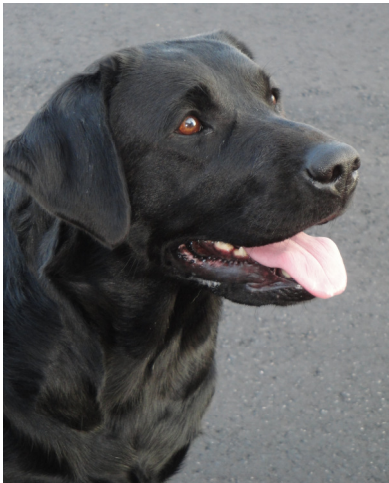
**More CCTC Brags...**



**TCH OTCH CH Pinebank's One Of A Kind WCX SH RE AGNS AGNJS**

“Solo” earned her Tracking Championship Sept. 2009  
Also won the Utility Trophy & a Diamond All round Labrador Pin.

New member Laura McKay



**CH. Castlegar JG CD TDX WC RN TT CGN**

“Jersey” earned her CD Oct. 2009 . She won the Mandalwood Trophy, Neville Trophy, Red Dawn Trophy, All Round Labrador pin & a Versatility Certificate from the Labrador Owners Club.  
Candy Rennie



**CH. KEWBEACH DANCING UP A STORM  
AWD ADC CDX RE Caro RX AGNJ SROM CGN**

“Samba” earned his RE Nov. 2009

Anne Passafiume



## More CCTC Brags....



**OTCH. Jaymar Well Dressed At Luvits AGN.s  
AGNJ.s**  
"Gucci" earned his OTCH Nov. 2009

Ricki Abrams



**Jaymar Kodi Chrome at Luvits CDX**  
"Kodi" earned his CDX Oct. 2009

Ricki Abrams , handled by Ann Harris

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### New CCTC Members 2009

Laura McKay .....Labrador Retrievers  
Tascha Gagnon .....Mini Long Haired Dachshund  
Jana Chvatal ..... Great Pyrenees  
Jennifer Lennon.....Bernese Mountain Dogs  
Liz & Bruce Russell....Golden Retrievers

### Spring Tracking Tests

April 18, 2010 Urban Test (Judge Marie-P Babin)  
May 9, 2010 TD Test (Judge Sharon Smith)  
Oct. 3, 2010 TD Test (Judge Jane Book)  
Oct. 24, 2010 Urban Test (Judge Marie-P Babin)  
Nov. 7, 2010 TDX Test (Judge Marie-P Babin)

**Gone But Not Forgotten.**



**CH. OTCH. Selamat's Rahontsi Quinn WC,  
JH, TD, RA, CGN Am CDX**

"Quinn" Labrador Retriever

Jan 26/97— Dec. 1, 2009

Loved & missed by Maryke Warwick

**"Tanto von Lauderhaus"**

Tanto"

German Shepherd Dog  
Gone way too soon....

March 5, 2009 to January 1,2010



## **Article written by an AKC Judge Carol Pernicka.**

You'll notice that wood is not included as an article in VST. In Canada we use wood as one of the articles in Urban Tracking along with plastic, fabric and leather at the end for UTD and we also have metal in UTDX.

Also you'll notice that Carol mentions the article at the start . In Canada we have a scent pad and we don't have an article at the start.

Carol A. Pernicka  
tracker@lpbroadband.net

### **GETTING STARTED TRACKING VARIABLE SURFACES**

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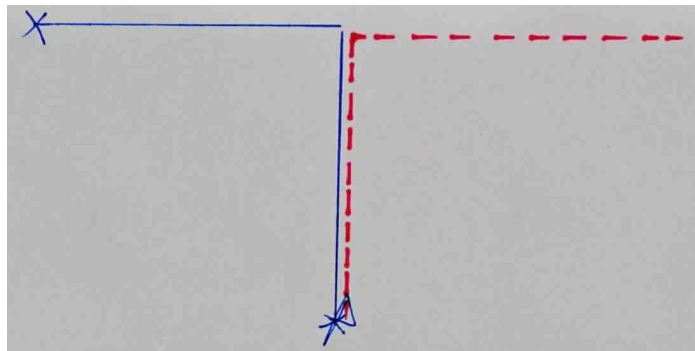
The practical world of variable surface tracking, done in urban areas that are also used by the general public, offers a new challenge to handlers and dogs that do AKC tracking. Accustomed to working in fields removed from traffic and conflicting pedestrian scents, it offers a new environment with new distractions and difficulties. It takes very little time when beginning, as there is no need to drive to empty fields that you can traipse through for training. It does require two things however: a committed handler and a motivated dog.

As the handler, you must be convinced that this is possible; any doubts you feel will be communicated down the line to your dog. When she has problems, and along the way she will, you must continue to believe this is possible. And without strong desire on the part of the dog to track, she will not have the drive to continue when it requires concentration from her. It is not within the scope of this article to discuss ways to build motivation; talk to other experienced tracking handlers for ideas. The dog that wants to track in the field will still want to track on the pavement; the dog that has trouble running a TD track will not have the perseverance needed to continue onto the more difficult surfaces. Watch for signs of stress such as whining by the dog and be prepared to help her work through the problem area. It is vital that she feels successful to prevent her shutting down. Motivation should always be your primary concern when tracking, no matter what the surface.

Use common sense when beginning VST training. If your dog is already trained and you plan to enter a TD or TDX test within the next several months, wait to start. Don't take a chance that your dog might encounter difficulties that cause him to lose confidence if you don't have time to build it back. We have found that dogs will ultimately progress much faster if they begin on these surfaces from the start. The experienced dog can also do VST, but he will need time to learn to distinguish the tracklayer's scent without the additional background scent from the crushed vegetation and disturbed ground that exists when tracking in the fields. He will also be more likely to undergo a confidence crisis while learning these new skills; again, remember the importance of motivation, and help him through it.

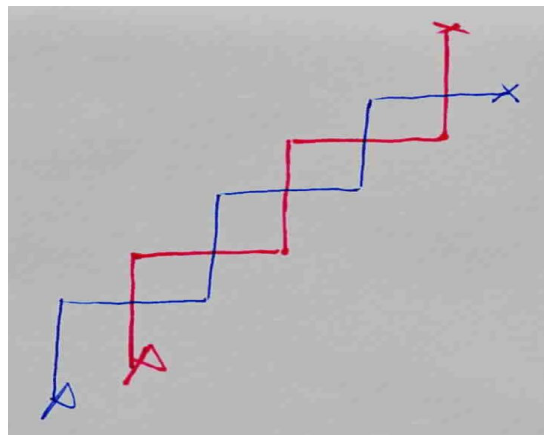
The variable surface track must include turns on surfaces that are not vegetated. Some of these surfaces are considerably more difficult for the dog to work than others. You can introduce soft dirt, landscape bark and gravel, and other rough or porous surfaces with considerably less difficulty for your dog than such hard surfaces as asphalt or concrete. Most dogs have little trouble tracking these porous surfaces. For this reason, when talking about teaching variable surfaces, I will be referring primarily to paved surfaces such as roads and parking lots.

When training for a variable surface test, you will be running your dog in areas that have scent from numerous other people. This means that your dog must be able to discriminate between the scent of the tracklayer and others who have walked across your track. There are several ways to introduce your dog to this concept. One of the easiest is to have two people leave the start of the track walking side by side. One should leave an article at the start so the dog can be given the scent of the person he is to follow. After 30-50 yards, the two will split into a "T" pattern. If this split must be marked, the person who did not leave the starting article should do so. Each person walks away from the other, and the tracklayer the dog is to follow leaves a second article after another 30-50 yards. You can add to the complexity of this pattern by having the two tracks cross each other, once or several times.

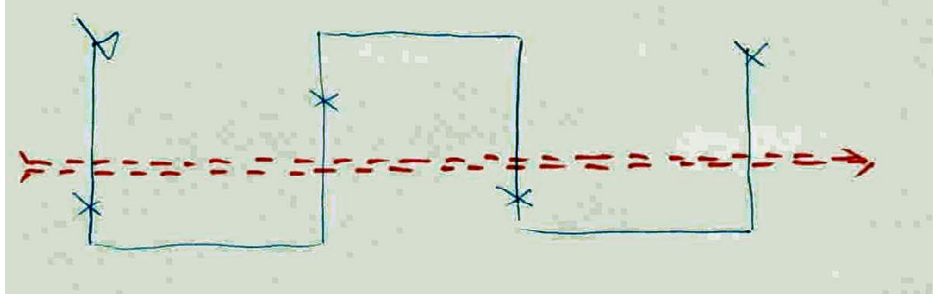


The dog that does not understand scent discrimination will not understand which track to follow where the two separate. Give the dog the scent from the starting article again, and help her make the correct decision. There is no need to age this pattern as you are not working age but training crosstracks. When she understands this pattern, she should work the turn as though only one person walked the track. Be sure to do this with both right and left turns for the dog to make. If the dog is inexperienced, pick up the start article with a plastic bag in the same manner as if you were cleaning up after her. Then if you need to refresh your dog with it, the only scent on the article will be that of the tracklayer, and you will avoid the possibility of confusing your dog with your own scent.

Another pattern is to lay intercepting stair steps. At each zigzag, one track's "risers" will intercept the other's "steps". Two dogs can run this at the same time to build concentration around distractions, or the less advanced dog can run it first, with the other having not only the tracklayer's but also another dog's scent to provide crosstracks with additional age. If the individual legs are long enough between the turns, a third track can be woven into the pattern. Pay careful attention to wind and make sure legs are long enough to ensure the dogs cannot air scent from one leg to another. We always make each leg a minimum of 50 yards, and on windy days increase this to 75 yards.



If your dog is not reliably indicating articles, lay your pattern in the shape of a grid with right angles, working the sides of the field and running back and forth across it. Have the crosstracklayer walk through the center of the field. Articles should be dropped fifteen to twenty yards after each crosstrack. This will give the dog practice with turns, crosstracks, and articles. Again, keep the legs long enough to prevent the wind from carrying the scent of one leg to the next one downwind.



Sometimes it is necessary to teach article indication separately from the tracking itself. Placing as many as 30 articles, ten to fifteen yards apart, down the sidewalk or at the park will help the dog understand that each article is important. Put the dog in her harness and tell her to track. Although she will probably use her eyes as much as her nose, insist that she indicate every article and reward her for each with a tidbit. If she indicates by sitting or downing on the articles, make her stay in this position while you reward her. This will keep her on the track and ready to continue. If your dog indicates articles by retrieving them and has been force trained to retrieve, you can use a correction if it proves necessary. By the end of this exercise, there will have been ample opportunity for even the most stubborn dog to realize that not only are articles important to you, but good things ensue for her as well. Because articles for the variable surface tracking will be metal and plastic as well as fabric and leather, be sure you have used a good number of these. Keep them large enough so the dog that indicates them by picking them up and retrieving them is not in danger of swallowing any.

The smooth surfaces of metal and plastic articles, just as the ground itself, will be a different scenting experience. As the tracks you are running get older, be prepared for times that your dog will miss articles. Make sure their location is well marked, either at the site or on the tracklayer's map. Help your dog realize that the fainter scent on plastic and metal requires greater concentration. While he may indicate that a fabric or leather article was left on the ground even if it has been taken away by a passerby, there is less likelihood that he will make this indication with the other materials. This is the reason that a missing article on a VST track will not require that the dog run an alternate track to pass if he does not indicate an article was there. Try to use flat articles; they are less visible to the dog on pavement. Expect your dog to see articles and allow him to check other objects to verify if they are his; all dogs become more visual while working VST. He should learn to reject any which were not left by the tracklayer; not rewarding for false indications will help extinguish the behavior. Be prepared for the possibility that articles may have been moved or blown off the track, and reward the dog for finding them. If necessary, teach him how to find the track and restart afterwards.

The start of the variable surface track will be like that of a TDX track, with the initial direction of the track unmarked. To ensure that the scent is taken at the start, I down my dogs and place the starting article at their noses. I keep my dogs down until they show me they have the scent, and I like to see them rising up while the nose stays down as they begin the track. This method prevents a lot of the wandering around at the start of the track commonly seen at TDX tests. If your dog does not know or reliably do a "down", this is not the place to teach it. Save any dominance battles and the resulting ill will that could result for a place other than your track. Tracking should be positive, not associated with corrections.

To proof your starts, try one that is unmarked. Rather than starting at a flag, have your tracklayer toss the start article off to the side about six to ten feet from the track. Take your dog to the article, give him the scent and tell him to find the track. If he can locate and follow the track when he does not begin on it, he should do clean starts when downed at the flag.

When we began VST training, our dogs already had their TDX. Because they learned to go across the roads and find their track again on the other side, we had to back up and do some remedial training. The biggest problem, not surprisingly, was convincing them that there was scent to follow on the pavement. Ultimately, we resorted to laying tracks only in parking lots. By staying away from any vegetation at all, even at the start, the dogs stopped trying to get off the pavement and back to the surrounding area at every possible opportunity. Empty parking lots such as at churches during the week or shopping centers very early in the morning offer ample opportunity to lay long tracks without ever approaching the edge of the pavement. We still utilize this method with dogs that are resistant to tracking pavement.

To mark our tracks, we use sidewalk chalk and write turns directly on the pavement. Check your chalk before using it; some construction chalk is marked hazardous if inhaled or ingested. If your dog indicates the chalk, encourage her to ignore the marks just as you did when she indicated tags on her marked tracks when training for TD and TDX tests.

Begin with short, fresh, straight tracks. Don't be afraid to experiment. One member of our group laid all her tracks barefoot to leave more scent. While effective for her dog, it did not help mine. This was apparent the day I forgot to take my sandals off until I had laid half the track; I stopped, took them off and carried them for the rest of the track. The dog looked equally unsure of himself for both halves of the track. There is one major advantage of this method of tracklaying however: you will be aware of the temperature of the asphalt and learn to recognize any differences in the head carriage of your dog when working warmer surfaces.

We eventually found that most of the dogs became determined to try tracking on the pavement when we dragged raw beef bones or liver behind us. For the least possible mess, put it into a pantyhose leg at home, and then bring it to your tracking site in a resealable plastic container. The strong scent left by this drag encouraged the dogs to keep their noses to the pavement and helped them realize there was scent they could follow there. One of the dogs needed six tracks like this, one needed only one. Let your dog tell you when she is convinced she can track in a parking lot. If you choose not to do a drag, you can try rubbing a greasy meat such as hot dog or salami on the soles of your shoes or marking the pavement with a "hot dog crayon". AKC Tracking Representative John Barnard recommends dragging an article; adding moisture with a mister can help in low humidity.

Be careful putting food on the track as is often done when introducing tracking to a new dog. Dogs are already more visually oriented while doing VST, and do not need additional encouragement to look for the food rather than using their noses to smell for it. My dogs still check every bird dropping, each piece of gravel, and each bit of trash they see near their tracks to determine if it is an article. Putting food down will encourage this, especially when it is easier to look than smell.

After your dog will follow a straight track in the parking lot, it is time to introduce turns. Do not rush this point; if your dog is not confident running a straight track, she will not develop confidence when having to make a change in direction. Introduce turns the same way you do when beginning them at the TD level. Shuffling around the turn, opening the angle or rounding it off, or triple laying it by walking five yards beyond the turn, backtracking around the turn five yards and then walking in your footsteps again, will all help the dog. Stay close to your dog and be prepared to help her if she indicates the turn by showing she has lost the scent ahead but does not check to either side. Articles placed 10 to 20 yards out of the turns will give you the opportunity to reward her for making the change in direction.

Add age and distance slowly to start. It can possibly take six or more outings before your dog learns to recognize the scent on pavement if he is accustomed to working vegetated tracks. This tracking is very difficult for the dog initially because of the difference in the scent. When tracking through vegetation, the dog not only has the tracklayer's body scent to follow, but also the scent from the ground and the vegetation crushed by the tracklayer's feet. Be patient while your dog learns to recognize that there is less scent and of a different nature when on pavement. Dogs that are introduced to hard surfaces as part of their initial tracking training may still have difficulty learning the differences in scent although it usually less of an issue.

Pay attention to the weather. Wind will blow the scent considerably further, without the shade of vegetation the scent will desiccate and evaporate faster, rain will spread it further, and melting snow will run it all over the parking lot. Hot days will seem hotter, and on cold days the scent freezes and disappears on the pavement. In general, all factors which affect scent on vegetation are amplified both in scope and age when the track is laid upon pavement.

As your dog becomes more confident, you can begin to age the track while making it longer. Take your time and watch for signs of stress; whining and frantic movements are indications that the dog is having trouble. Be prepared to help. You may stay as close as ten feet to your dog during this test. Take advantage of this and work your dog at the shorter length; it usually boosts the dog's confidence. Remember as in all kinds of training, make only one thing harder at a time. If you add age, leave other things the same; if you increase distance or try a new surface do the same. New weather conditions can have a significant effect on how your dog experiences the track; again, do not add additional problems for the dog to work out at the same time.

Also watch your dog's style of tracking. As my first two dogs became confident with this surface, their style changed. They still worked vegetation with their heads down at the ground, but when on the pavement, the heads were higher and they moved somewhat faster. This contrast seems to be fairly widespread. Another dog intensified her style, and on the pavement all but inhaled the asphalt. Her teeth literally turned black from the tar one warm day. All the dogs get sandy noses on the beach. Learn to recognize your dog's individual style and be conscious of any changes that may occur when on these new surfaces. Most dogs will work the cracks in the pavement that trap the scent if the track follows in their general direction; they will also follow the paint stripes if going down a road or along painted parking spots in a lot. Curbs, parking bumpers, and other raised edges will also trap the scent, causing the dog to work at the edge of the pavement.

A word of warning: be aware of possible hazards to you and your dog. Besides the need to watch for traffic, be alert to the possibility of road salts, oil, antifreeze, and other chemicals, both on pavement and lawns. Office parks may not post their grass after the ground crew has sprayed pesticides, weed killers or fertilizers. Become acquainted with the area in which you will be tracking and any possible treatments that could be dangerous for your dog.

Finally, be prepared to find that once your dog reliably tracks non-vegetated surfaces, he has trouble tracking vegetation, both short lawn and taller field grass. Give him time to readjust to the scent on vegetation. Once he reliably tracks on grass, he should be able to work a complete track, putting all the pieces together. He may always do considerable checking when making the transition from one surface to another; this is common. Let the dog work; your patience will help him develop his confidence at these difficult spots. Generally, as the dogs become more confident, they do less checking when making the transition from one surface to another.

Those of us who have tried variable surface tracking are hooked. Our dogs are delighted also; while the scent work is difficult, the physical aspects of the test are designed so old dogs and their aging handlers can easily negotiate the track. Your retired tracking dog will thank you for giving him a chance to track again; the beginner will develop skills which make him a confident, steady dog in the field as well.

Watch your dog and let her tell you when she is ready to progress. Don't rush at the beginning; it will take longer than you expect for your dog to become confident. Finally, remember to trust your dog. As with all other kinds of tracking, once she learns how to do it, she will take charge. All you need to do is stay back and follow her for the thrill of your life as she leads you down the road of variable surface tracking.

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CCTC Christmas Party and AGM Dec. 11, 2009

We had 21 Club Members at the meeting this year.

We had a good variety of food for the Pot Luck Dinner and a surprise box of chocolates that came from Kathleen Dahmer .

A big thank you to Eileen Fisher for her hospitality at her home for the AGM.

