



Tracking Resources

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Tracking programs and regulations

- ❖ The American Kennel Club has the best known and most extensive tracking program in the U.S. The *AKC Tracking Regulations* are available online:

www.akc.org/pdfs/tracking.pdf

You can search the online AKC judges' directory to find a tracking judge near you for certification. Also, in this part of the country, the AKC Web site may be the best list of upcoming tracking tests, clinics, and seminars.

- ❖ The Australian Shepherd Club of America's tracking program is similar to AKC's. The *ASCA Tracking Rules* are available online:

www.asca.org/Programs/Tracking

- ❖ The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) has a tracking program, also similar to AKC's and including a new Urban Tracking program.

www.ckc.ca

The CKC Web site has an event calendar, but doesn't have rule books or other information online — you'll have to call or write for hardcopy.

- ❖ U.S. Police Canine Assn has a tracking program as part of its police dog certification:

www.uspcak9.com/pdf/tracking_rules.pdf

- ❖ You can earn Schutzhund (or VPG) tracking titles through various organizations without doing the protection phase of Schutzhund:

DVG — www.dvgamerica.com

USA — www.germanshepherddog.com

You'll need to pass a *Begleithunde* (BH) test — obedience and temperament — and you'll need a scorebook from DVG, USA, or other organization.

It is one of those extraordinary mornings that tell us fall is coming. The air is crisp; the trees now striped with reds and yellows in an otherwise summer colored world. On the thick, grassy mat, lies a dog, breathing calmly with eyes expectant. The handler picks up the old, worn leather line and speaks to the animal. It stands, stares, and then lowers its dark muzzle to the cover, moving slowly, steadily along a line no human can know. Its warm breath turns to steam and spreads, for only an instant, across the forward path in burst, like an engine. As it moves, the power increases so it is driven by only one desire, the fusion of scent and animal. When it reaches the first corner, it senses the change and shifts to another direction, confident of its skill and purpose. As the dog moves towards the distant hills, the trainer — only walking behind — has a solitary wonder of what voice from nature this child of the wolf is hearing. — Gary Patterson, *Tracking: From the Beginning*

Tracking clubs' Web sites

- ❖ Big Sky Tracking Dog Club (MT)
<http://bstcm.tripod.com>
- ❖ Croix Valley Tracking Club (WI, MN)
www.cvtclub.org
- ❖ Cross Country Tracking Club (ON)
www.cctrackingclub.com
- ❖ Dog Tracking Club of Maine and
Tracking Club of Massachusetts
www.gonetracking.com
- ❖ Gateway Tracking Club (MO)
www.gatewaytrackingclub.com
- ❖ Greater Kansas City Dog Training Club
(MO)
<http://members.tripod.com/~GKCDTC/id10.htm>
- ❖ Greater Lafayette Kennel Club (IN)
www.greaterlafayettekennelclub.org
- ❖ Houston Obedience Training Club (TX)
www.hotdogclub.org/tracking.htm
- ❖ Lenape Tracking Club of Central New
Jersey
www.lenapetrackingclub.org
- ❖ Moraine Tracking Club (IL)
www.geocities.com/heartland/valley/4425
- ❖ Nashville Dog Training Club (TN)
www.nashvilledog.com/Tracking.htm
- ❖ Oriole Dog Training Club (MD)
www.oriolodogclub.org/track.htm
- ❖ Palo Alto Foothills Tracking Assn (CA)
www.garlic.com/~symons/pafta.htm
- ❖ Pecatonica Tracking Club (IL)
www.homestead.com/pectracking
- ❖ Queen City Dog Training Club (OH)
www.qcdtc.org/tracking
- ❖ Sacramento Dog Training Club (CA)
www.geocities.com/sacramentodtc
- ❖ Southwest Tracking Assn (Houston TX)
www.southwesttracking.org
- ❖ Texas Gulf Coast Vizsla Club
www.vizslaclub.com/tracking
- ❖ Tracking Assn of North Alabama
www.teasel.com/tana
- ❖ Tracking Club of Vermont
www.freewebs.com/trackingclubofvt
- ❖ Tracking Club of Wisconsin
www.tcow.net
- ❖ Twin Cities Obedience Training Club (MN)
www.tcotc.com
- ❖ Western Carolinas Tracking Club (NC)
www.neverblue.com/lrchtrac.htm
- ❖ Yankee Golden Retriever Club (MA, NH)
www.yankeegrclub.org

The TDX handler's prayer, from *Practical Tracking for Practically Anyone*:

Please let me start.
Oh, little dog make a choice.
Go. Go somewhere and
Look like you know where.
And if you must fail,
Please put me in the woods
Where no one can see me.

E-mail discussion lists

- ❖ CKC Tracking
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ckc-tracking>
- ❖ Tracking Dog
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tracking_dog
- ❖ CyberTracking
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cybertracking>
- ❖ The Tracking List
www.smartgroups.com/groups/track
- ❖ TinyTrackers — for dogs under 20 LB
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tinytrackers>
- ❖ Tracking-L
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tracking-l>

Equipment suppliers

- ❖ Bridgeport Equipment/Trainer's Choice
800 678-7353
www.bridgeportequipment.com
- ❖ Dogwise
800 776-2665
www.dogwise.com
- ❖ For Dog Trainers
815 550-2249
www.fordogtrainers.com
- ❖ J & J Dog Supplies
800 642-2050
www.jandjdog.com
- ❖ Leerburg
715 235-6502
www.leerburg.com
- ❖ PawMark (Ed Presnall)
262 537-2478
www.pawmark.com
- ❖ Ray Allen Professional K9 Equipment
800 444-0404
www.rayallen.com

Online training methods and hints

Articles and advice

- ❖ Craig Green's Tracking Articles
www.basset.net/track.html
See also "Small Successful Steps: A Tracking Dog Philosophy"
www.mantrailing.com/blh_tracking_phil_1e.html
- ❖ Dennis Helm
www.big-planet.org/Tracking.html
"Article Indication in Tracking the Schutzhund Dog"
www.finographics.com/schutzhund/tracking/trackingarticles.html
www.vomlowenherzigrottweilers.com/artilceindication.html
"Teaching Turns in Tracking"
www.vomlowenherzigrottweilers.com/turns.html
www.finographics.com/schutzhund/tracking/trackingturns.html
"Handling the Tracking Line"
www.danika.com/library/trackline.html
www.vomlowenherzigrottweilers.com/handletrackline.html
- ❖ "Tracking Through Drive" and other articles by Gary D. Murray
www.k9resources.com/trainingarticle.shtml
www.memlane.com/business/tightlines
- ❖ Allison Platt:
"Take Your Westie Tracking"
www.westielovers.com/westieworld/tracking.html
"Serpentine Tracks: A New Method of Introducing Dogs to Tracking"
www.siriusdog.com/articles/tracking-dog-k9-serpentine-tracks.htm
www.tcow.net/info_sturns.htm
"Essential Skills and Common Problems with Beginner Trackers"
www.beaglesunlimited.net/2000may-jun/essentialskillswithbeginnertrackers.htm
- ❖ April Rifenburg:
"Tracking with Your Berner"
www.sierrawest.org/tracking.htm
www.softcom.net/users/aprilr/tracking_with_your_berner.htm
"TDX Pointers"
www.softcom.net/users/aprilr/tdx_training_pointers1.htm
- ❖ Dan Tratnack
<http://home.ntelos.net/~dtratnac>

An extraordinary number of failures at [tracking tests] happen when the handler pulls the dog away from the trail, which may be one of the reasons the bigger, stronger dogs do so well at tracking. — Vicki Hearne, *Adam's Task*

Introductions and overviews

- ❖ “Beginning a New Tracking Dog” by Anne Copeland & Ruth Rechteris
www.bmdcsew.org/pages/new_pages/tracking.htm
- ❖ Pam Green’s Tracking Overview
www.cal.net/~pamgreen/track_overview.html
- ❖ “Puppies and Tracking” by Joe Hamzy
www.fersainc.org/resources/articles/puppytracking.html
- ❖ “Getting Started in Tracking” by Lynda McKee
www.gacorgiclub.org/Tracking_content.htm
- ❖ “Why Tracking?” by Susan Stanley
www.goldengatecorgis.org/performance/tracking.htm
- ❖ “Tracking with Eli” by Trish Wright
www.bmdcc.ca/tracking.htm
- ❖ “Tracking with Your Newf” (Newfoundland Club of Seattle)
www.newfclubseattle.org/tracking.html

Canadian tracking

- ❖ Heather MacLeod’s Tracking Canadian-Style
www.geocities.com/ckc_tracking
[Including CKC Urban Tracking Dog program]
- ❖ Tracking in Canada
www.tcow.net/trk_ckc_track.htm

Variable surface tracking

- ❖ “Getting Started Tracking Variable Surfaces” by Carol Pernicka
www.siriusdog.com/varsurtrk.htm
www.mantrailing.com/blh_vst.html
- ❖ “An Introduction to VST” by Ed Presnall
www.geocities.com/heartland/valley/4425/brochure.htm
- ❖ “Getting Started In VST” by Ed Presnall
www.tcow.net/info_gsvst.htm

Special techniques and problem-solving

- ❖ “Read Any Trailing or Tracking Dog by Understanding Negative Indications” by Kevin Kocher & Robin Monroe
www.uspcak9.com/training/trailingNegative.pdf
www.cpvda.com/Tracking_Dog.PDF
www.bloodhoundtraining.com/downloads/8x11Negitive_ID_draft.doc
- ❖ Deborah Palman on police tracking:
“Police Tracking in Rural Areas”
www.uspcak9.com/training/ruraltracking.shtml
Tracking Handling
www.mesard.org/Articles/Tracking_Handling.htm

- ❖ “The Article Game” by Ed Presnall
www.tcow.net/info_articlegame.htm
- ❖ Julia Priest on FH or Schutzhund-style tracking:
“Track du Jour — Cross Tracks and Notched Corner Tracks”
www.juliapriest.allk-9.com/Track_du_Jour_1.htm,
[track_cross-track.htm](http://www.juliapriest.allk-9.com/track_cross-track.htm), AND [track_notched-corners.htm](http://www.juliapriest.allk-9.com/track_notched-corners.htm)
“Teaching the Down and Article Indication”
www.juliapriest.allk-9.com/article_articles.htm
“Teaching a Puppy Articles Off the Track”
www.bigskyschutzhund.com/trackart.htm
- ❖ “Only the Nose Really Knows: A Tracking Perspective” by Armin Winkler
www.schutzhundvillage.com/nose1.html AND [nose2.html](http://www.schutzhundvillage.com/nose2.html)
www.ascomannis.com/articles/armin/tracking.jsp

www.blackangeldogs.com/noseknows.html
www.finographics.com/schutzhund/tracking/armintrack1.html AND [arminarticles.html](http://www.finographics.com/arminarticles.html)
www.workingschnauzer.com/scent.htm

- ❖ Steve White and “scent-in-a-bottle:
“Scent in a Bottle — An Operant Approach to Tracking”
www.shirleychong.com/keepers/archives/tracking.txt
“Tracking with SIAB — A Modular Approach”
www.uspcak9.com/training/scent.shtml OR
www.dogstuff.info/scent_in_a_bottle_white.html
“Scent in a Bottle: The Logical Approach to Tracking” by Jona Decker
www.malinut.com/write/siab.shtml

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Guidelines for Tracking Test Secretaries
www.cvtclub.org/guidelines.htm
- ❖ “Articles of a Personal Nature” by Deb Coates
www.scifi.com/scifiction/originals/originals_archive/coates/coates1.html
[A short story dealing with tracking]
- ❖ “Oh, What a Fine Tracking Morning!”
by Pam Green
www.cal.net/~pamgreen/fine_tracking_morning.html
[To tune of “Oh, What a Beautiful Morning”]
- ❖ “Getting Ready for the Grand Parade”
by Pat Norris
www.vomlowenherzigrottweilers.com/trackgrandparade.html
[Preparing for an AKC tracking test]
- ❖ “Imagine This: Preparing for a Tracking Event”
by Elizabeth Reynolds
www.finographics.com/schutzhund/tracking/imagine-tracking.html

A dog can never tell you what she knows from the smells of the world, but you know watching her, that you know almost nothing.

— Mary Oliver, “Her Grave”

European tracking

- ❖ André Brun's "blood tracking" in Norway
www.thetroutbum.com/hundesideulv.htm
- ❖ Hans van der Stroom's tracking in the Netherlands
<http://home.wanadoo.nl/stroomh>
- ❖ Tracking trials in Finland
www.naavaparran.com/eng/high/track.html
- ❖ Training for the FCI *Fährtenhund* (FH) World Cup
www.schaferlake.com/diary.html
[The FH track is similar to a TDX]
- ❖ Fundamentals of Tracking (Martin Lerchbaumer)
www.hile-haus.com

Schutzhund tracking

<http://users.skynet.be/hexental/training.htm>
www.dvgamerica.com/FH2Rules.pdf OR
www.danika.com/library/trackdif.html OR
www.vomlowenherzigrottweilers.com/SchvsAKCTrack.html

www.geocities.com/gasaonline/Trackingdiagram.htm
www.schutzhund.com/art/16.cfm
www.topworkingdogs.com/tracking.html
www.uwsp.edu/psych/dog/LA/krsnich1.htm

www.vomhausledda.com/tracking_tips.htm
OR www.siriusdog.com/ritatips.htm
www.willametevalleyschutzhundclub.net/tracks.htm

Spring is coming. The air is crisp, the trees, recently barren, are sprouting new buds and the grass, covered by snow or dormant for months is turning a lush green. Gazing across the landscape, a handler watches his dog intently sniffing the frosty breeze as its long recessed instincts arouse.

Snapping on the harness, the handler attaches the long lead and watches his partner drop its muzzle towards the ground and start slowly moving along an unseen line. They are following a scent so faint that no human could recognize it, yet the dog leads on. With both amazement and admiration of his working friend, the handler follows along behind; assisting as a part of the team, sometimes questioning, but always assuring his partner.

Later, perhaps after only a few yards in the beginning, or over 500 yards as their team progresses towards their goal, the dog indicates a special treasure it has found on their journey. An old glove, a sock, or a wallet. The handler congratulates his dog, accepts the treasure, and with a tear in his eye and joy in his heart leads his partner on an enjoyable walk through the field, back to their vehicle and awaiting friends. — Ed Presnall, "Tracking Fields"

Books and videos on tracking

Most of these books are available from Dogwise, J&J, and other suppliers. You may want to try to get your club to buy copies, or if you have a group of friends with whom you're tracking, get every to pitch in on a joint purchase.

- ❖ Glen Johnson's *Tracking Dog: Theory & Method* is a classic of dog training literature. Dogwise also sells a booklet of just Chapter 7 of this book as *The Tracking Trainers Handbook*. It's the core part of Johnson's book, including his lesson plans and how to determine the "hump" factor — handy to keep in your kit bag.
- ❖ Sandy Ganz & Susan Boyd's *Tracking from the Ground Up* is well-written (notwithstanding a somewhat unrealistically diligent training regimen). The companion video, *Tracking Fundamentals*, is a good introduction, well produced, and concise.
- ❖ *Enthusiastic Tracking: The Step-by-Step Training Handbook* by Sil Sanders also has a nicely laid-out curriculum. Interestingly, you can buy the field maps for this book separately.
- ❖ *Try Tracking!* (formerly *The Puppy Tracking Primer*) by Carolyn Krause (www.firedogenterprises.com) is a terrific booklet by an accomplished tracker.
- ❖ *Tracking: A Practical Guide for TD and TDX* by the Tracking Club of Massachusetts is a concise introduction — a very nice little book.
- ❖ Betty Mueller's *About Track Laying: Guidelines for Dog Tracking Enthusiasts* is a very handy, very well produced booklet which is worth carrying in your old kit bag. It may be especially good for the Chief Tracklayer of a test to have a copy for coaching rookie tracklayers.
- ❖ Julie Hogan & Donna Thompson's booklet *Practical Tracking for Practically Anyone* has good advice for the beginner to TDX and VST.
- ❖ Lue Button's *Practical Scent Dog Training* is a general introduction to scent work, very readable, but not as comprehensive as other books listed here. Also, Susan Bulanda's little vest-pocket book *Scenting on the Wind: Scentwork for Hunting Dogs* has a good explanation of theory and practice.
- ❖ John Rice & Suzanne Clothier's booklet, *Following Ghosts: Developing the Tracking Relationship* (www.flyingdogpress.com) is, like all of Clothier's booklets, interesting reading for a philosophy of training, more than specific methods.
- ❖ *The Audible Nose: Training Your Newfoundland to Track* by Judi Adler is available from her Web site — www.sweetbay.com/booktrac.htm — or from Pawmark.
- ❖ Ed Presnall's *Mastering Variable Surface Tracking: The Component Training Approach* supplants his earlier book on VST. There's a companion workbook (www.pawmark.com).
- ❖ There's an excellent chapter on tracking by Carilee Cole Moran in Sallyann Comstock's *Belgians from Start to Finished*.

- ❖ *Tracking: From the Beginning* by Gary Patterson (www.siriustrainer.com) is based largely on drive theory and mostly concerns Schutzhund-style footstep tracking; but it has some good hints for AKC-style tracking. Several other Schutzhund books also cover tracking, notably *Dog Training with the Touch* by Tom Rose & Annetta L. Cheek. You might also look for videos on Schutzhund tracking by Joanne Fleming-Plumb and Gottfried Dildei.
- ❖ The Leerburg (www.leerburg.com) video *Training the Competition Tracking Dog* by Ed Frawley is also mostly about Schutzhund tracking — with some very old-fashioned, heavy-handed methods — but it has some good hints on track laying and using the track as a training tool.
- ❖ Resi Gerritsen & Ruud Haak’s *K9 Professional Tracking* gives the perspective of veteran SAR trainers from Europe — mainly concerned with scent theory, but has some practical training advice. Likewise *Tracking for Search and Rescue Dogs* by Boguslaw P. Gorny.
- ❖ Some older books that have some good advice:
 - *Go Find! Training Your Dog to Track* by L. Wilson Davis
 - Milo Pearsall & Hugh Verbruggen’s *Scent: Training to Track, Search, and Rescue*
 - Tracking chapters in Winifred Strickland’s *Expert Obedience Training for Dogs*
- ❖ *A Practical Guide to Training and Working the Trailing Dog* by John Lutenberg & Linda Porter is the course book for Canine Training Academy (www.caninetrainingacademy.com) in Colorado, which provides training for law enforcement and SAR dogs.
- ❖ William Syrotuck’s *Scent and the Scenting Dog* is a technical discussion of scent by one of the founders of U.S. canine SAR training. See also “Scent: K9s’ Reason for Being” by Steve White & Tim Tieken — www.dogstuff.info/scent_reason_for_being_white.html.
- ❖ Roy Hunter’s *Fun Nosework for Dogs* has some training games that can help motivate a reluctant tracker — and amuse a dedicated one.