

VST



An Introduction To
Variable Surface Tracking

Developed for the Moraine Tracking Club

by Ed Presnall

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Moraine Tracking Club, Ltd.

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/4425

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Overview

AKC tracking events are the competition form of canine Search And Rescue. These tracking events provide training for dogs and their handlers to meet some human needs for tracking and finding lost humans or other animals, as well as demonstrating the extremely high level of scent capability that dogs possess.

In movies dogs can be seen following the trail of an escapee through swamps. The AKC's Tracking Tests allow dogs to demonstrate their natural ability to recognize and follow human scent. This vigorous outdoor activity is great for canine athletes.



A Variable Surface Tracking test is designed to simulate a person lost in an urban area. The test tracks are laid out in a manner which will demonstrate the dog's natural scenting ability, the team's problem solving capabilities, drive and perseverance.

Variable Surface Tracking is a test of a dog and handler's urban searching capability. The test is designed to verify the dog's ability to recognize and follow a specific human scent in varying conditions over urban terrain. Tracking is a team sport. The dog's handler must work with and communicate with the dog in order to successfully follow a track.



VST tracks must utilize urban areas with buildings and other structures such as fences, stairs, sidewalks, and parking lots.



The tracks may not enter a closed building, but may go through open sided structures such as parking garages.

It is to be expected that pedestrian and vehicular traffic may be encountered by the working team. Each team is trained to work through or around such distractions and interruptions as this is considered a normal occurrence on a track.

Running a test will in no way interfere with the everyday activity at a test site. Such activity is to be expected, and dealing with everyday activity at a site is part of the tracking process.



Purpose

"The purpose of a Tracking Test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind." AKC Tracking Regulations

Tracking can be useful to mankind, and some of the dogs and people we work with go on to become successful canine Search And Rescue teams. Often it is simply a challenging and enjoyable recreation for the team and spectators alike.



Tracking is a non-competitive sport. It is judged, not with a scorecard or based on a standard, but on a pass/fail basis.

As stated in the AKC Tracking Regulations, "Tracking, by its nature is a vigorous non-competitive outdoor sport. Tracking Tests should demonstrate willingness and enjoyment by the dog in his work, and should always represent the best in sportsmanship and camaraderie by the people involved."

Moraine Tracking Club, Ltd. strives to maintain these standards and seeks your assistance in allowing the Club to introduce the sport of tracking to the public at large.



About The Proposed Event

- *Restrictions on Admission* - The general public is welcome and no admission is charged.
- *Special requirements* - None.
- *Qualification of Entries* - A dog must have demonstrated its ability by earning a basic AKC tracking title before entering a VST event. Entry in the test event must be made through the test Secretary prior to the event date.
- *Test Committee* - The Club will appoint a Test Chairperson, Test Secretary and Hospitality Chairperson who shall be in charge of the event and shall be responsible for all set-up and clean-up which may be associated with the event.
- The Test Secretary and Chairman shall ensure that the grounds are maintained in a clean condition and that rules set forth by the site owners are followed. A Field Marshal may be appointed to ensure the safety of the entrants and to direct the spectators to the best viewing positions.



- *Not For Profit* - The Moraine Tracking Club is a not-for-profit organization licensed by the State of Illinois and as such no fees or benefits are paid to any member in the running of any tracking test.

Our Regulations (Partial Listing)

- All dogs shall be *on leash* or in a vehicle *at all times*.
- The handler (and Club) is responsible for cleaning up after any dog.
- A maximum of eight (8) dogs are allowed to participate at any event.
- Only one (1) dog is to be tested at any time.
- The track shall be at least 600 yards and not more than 800 yards in length.
- The track shall have a minimum of three (3) different surfaces, which shall include vegetation and two areas devoid of vegetation, such as concrete, asphalt, gravel, sand, hard pan or mulch. The areas devoid of vegetation shall comprise at least one- third (1/ 3) to one- half (1/ 2) of the total length of the track.
- The track shall be plotted using different surfaces and scenting conditions as afforded by the terrain. The level of physical difficulty should be such that it will permit all AKC breeds and handlers to participate.
- Turns shall be on various surfaces as dictated by the terrain. There shall be at least four (4) and not more than eight (8) turns on a track. Both right and left turns shall be used.
- Tracks may be laid along the sides of buildings and fences, and may go through buildings that are open sided, such as breezeways, shelters or roofed parking garages. Tracks may not enter a building with closed doors and sides.



What Happens at a Test?

The testing function normally requires portions of two days to complete. The following is an example of a typical event.

Several weeks prior to the event, the selected two judges are furnished with maps of the campus. Buildings, parking areas or areas of construction designated as temporarily off limits by the facility are clearly marked on the maps.

Day 1 (normally Friday or Saturday)

Personnel involved - 6 to 10

Time involved on-site - 4 to 6 hours

- Meeting of event staff at prearranged location on-site.
- Two AKC Licensed judges and one or more support people review maps and/or drive around the campus and identify likely locations for testing the teams.
- The judges identify one person to simulate the lost person (*the track layer*) for each planned track (one track per exhibitor - maximum of 8 exhibitors)
- In order to simulate the movement of the lost person, two judges and one or more support people place a small survey or utility type flag on a lawn area to mark the start of a track. The start of the track is known in Search And Rescue terminology as the Last Known Point (LKP) where the lost person was seen. This will be the point at which the exhibitor and dog start their search.
- The judges and support people then walk across the campus, drawing a detailed map of the test track and identifying specific locations for the placement of small personal articles of the lost person.
- All other tracks are plotted and mapped in a similar manner.
- All personnel depart the site.



Day 2 (normally Saturday or Sunday)

Personnel involved - Support 6 to 10, Spectators 6 to 10

Time involved on-site - 6 to 8 hours

- Judges, track layers and Club personnel meet at the designated parking location.
- The judges watch as the designated track layer for each individual track re-walks their pre-plotted track. Along the track, the tracklayer will leave four articles at the designated points along the track. The articles will consist of one personal article made from cloth, leather, plastic and metal. Typical articles might be a cloth handkerchief, a small leather business card case, a plastic comb and a metal breath-mint type tin.



- Approximately 2 to 3 hours after the tracks are re-walked; exhibitors and spectators will meet in the designated area.
- All dogs will be *on leash* or in a vehicle *at all times*.
- The judges and exhibitors will gather and draw lots for the running order of the exhibitors.



- From 3 to 5 hours after the track is laid an individual dog and handler, the two judges and the designated track layer will proceed to the start of the track. The dog and handler will approach the start flag, identify the article left there and will proceed to follow the scent of the track layer and identify each of the articles left along the track. The judges, tracklayer and spectators will follow at a discrete distance from the working track throughout the test. Should an animal, pedestrian or vehicular traffic appear or move across the track, the dog and handler will continue to work the track, as incidents such as these are considered a normal occurrence.
- Other exhibitors will work their designated tracks in a similar manner.
- All personnel will return to the designated parking area and depart the site.

What A Track Might Look Like

Incorporates some or all of the following:

- Buildings
- Sidewalks or Roads
- Parking Lots
- Stairs
- Wheelchair Ramps
- Grass/Lawn
- Mulch/Wood Chips
- Gravel or Stone
- Asphalt
- Concrete



Types of Dogs Involved



Unlike what you might normally think of as a *tracking* dog, any breed of dog may attempt this test. Currently the VST title has been successfully earned by a number of breeds including:

- Australian Shepherd
- Bernese Mountain Dog
- Border Collie
- Clumber Spaniel
- Field Spaniel
- German Shepherd Dog
- Golden Retriever
- Miniature Poodle
- Portuguese Water Dog
- Shetland Sheepdog
- Belgian Tervuren
- Basset Hound
- Bloodhound
- Cardigan Welsh Corgi
- English Springer Spaniel
- Flat Coated Retriever
- German Shorthaired Pointer
- Labrador Retriever
- Pembroke Welsh Corgi
- Rottweiler
- Standard Poodle
- West Highland White Terrier



Other Tracking Sites (Nationally)

Public sites used by AKC licensed or member clubs such as Moraine Tracking Club to host Variable Surface Tracker (VST) tests throughout the country. Specific Club and site contact information for these facilities may be provided upon request.

- American River College, Sacramento, CA
- The Presidio, San Francisco, CA
- Sierra College, Rocklin, CA
- West Valley College, Saratoga, CA
- Fort Logan Mental Health Center, Denver, CO
- Lee Vista Center, Orlando, FL
- Wastewater Treatment Plant, West Palm Beach, FL
- Athens Area Technical Institute, Athens, GA
- Des Moines Area Community College, Des Moines, IA
- Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY



- Philip Sheridan Army Reserve Center, Fort Sheridan, IL
- Dupage County Government Center, Wheaton, IL
- Harry Hines Veteran's Hospital, Hines, IL
- Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
- Hanscom Air Force Base, Bedford, MA
- East Central College, Union, MO
- Park Place Hotel, Kansas City, MO
- NY State Office Building Campus, Albany, NY
- Lake Murray State Park, Ardmore, OK
- Chemeketa Community College, Salem, OR
- Veterans Affairs Domiciliary, White City, OR
- University of Wisconsin - River Falls, WI
- University of Portland, Portland, OR
- Rice University, Houston, TX
- Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX

Our Request of You

- Provide written authorization in the form of a permit or license for access to your grounds for the purpose of holding a Variable Surface Tracking event. This written authorization would be an agreement between your organization and the Moraine Tracking Club which would be carried by club officials at the site during the event.
- Provide a map of your site with any areas not authorized for use clearly marked. This will enable the club to plan staging areas for parking and the plotting of test tracks.



What We Offer

- The Club will provide written notification of intent to use the facility up to 12 months in advance of a test date, but no later than 30 days in advance, such schedule to be worked out between the club and your organization.



- The Club will work with your organization to schedule events at times which do not conflict with other scheduled events at your facility.
- The Club and its members will respect all traffic regulations, parking requirements and off-limit areas as designated or posted on the facility and will leave the facility in as good or better condition than it was found.
- The Club will provide a copy of its current insurance certificate and will name your organization as co-insured if requested. The club carries insurance through Acordia of Colorado in the amount of \$1,000,000 with an additional property liability rider. (See enclosed sample copy, next page)

ACORD - CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE		DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	
PRODUCER Acordia P O Box 38117 5755 Mark Bohling Blvd Ste 202 Colorado Springs CO 80909-3117 1783 682-1177		8/17/01	
THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW.			
COMPANIES AFFORDING COVERAGE			
INSURED		COMPANY	
Moraine Tracking Club, Ltd. % ACC Purchasing Group 3000 S. Jensen Dr., Ste 4218 Aurora, CO 80014		A Sea Star Indemnity	
		B Life Insurance Company of North America	
		C	
		D	
COVERAGES			
THIS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICES OF SURVEILLANCE BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENTS, CONDITIONS OR COVENANTS OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN. THIS COVERAGE IS AFFORDED BY THE POLICES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICES. THE POLICES MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.			
CG LTH	TYPE OF INSURANCE	POLICY NUMBER (PREFIX) POLICY EXPIRATION DATE (MONTH/DATE)	LIMITS
A	GENERAL LIABILITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIM MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input type="checkbox"/> OWNERS & CONTRACTORS PROT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Med Exp. Is Emergency First Aid Only	1W327823	GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 1,000,000 PRODUCT-COMP/OP AGG \$ 1,000,000 PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ 1,000,000 EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 FIRE (Maximum Any one fire) \$ 50,000 MED EXP (Any one person) \$ 2,000 COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT \$ BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE \$
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY ANY AUTO ALL OWNED AUTOS SCHEDULED AUTOS HIRE/LEASED AUTOS NON-OWNED AUTOS		
	Garage Liability ANY AUTO		AUTO ONLY - EA ACCIDENT \$ OTHER THAN AUTO ONLY: EACH ACCIDENT \$ AGGREGATE \$
	EXCESS LIABILITY UMBRELLA FORM OTHER THAN UMBRELLA FORM		EACH OCCURRENCE \$ AGGREGATE \$
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY THE PROPRIETOR/ PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ARE: <input type="checkbox"/> INCL <input type="checkbox"/> EXCL		WC STAT. TORT LIMITS: OTH. E1. EACH ACCIDENT \$ E2. DISEASE-POLICY LIMIT \$ E3. DISEASE-EA EMPLOYEE \$
B	OTHER Accidental Death Benefit Perm Total Disability Med Exp TTD \$200, week for 52 weeks	8/06/01 8/06/02	\$40,000 \$40,000 \$10,000/Ded \$100 week
DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS/LOCATIONS/VOLUNTARILY SPECIFIED ITEMS to this policy at a cost of \$315.00 (Liability Premium \$200.00 + Service Fee \$70.31 + State Tax \$8.29 + Surplus Lines Fee \$40 + Accident Premium \$30.00)			
COC: \$100,000 Property damage liability to property you rent for a (dog/horse), property loaned to you, property in your care, custody & control for a club sanctioned or sponsored activity.			
CANCELLATION SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, THE ISSUING COMPANY WILL endeavor TO MAIL 10 DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER NAMED TO THE LEFT, BUT FAILURE TO MAIL SUCH NOTICE SHALL IMPOSE NO OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY OF ANY KIND TO THE COMPANY, ITS AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: <i>John M. [Signature]</i> 677-818			
ACORD 26-S (1/95)			

Moraine Tracking Club, Ltd.



Moraine Tracking Club, Ltd. is an organization with members throughout the midwest which strives to support the sport of tracking. The Club hosts the following functions to support enthusiasts in Illinois and Southern Wisconsin.

- Training classes
- Multiple levels of testing
- Educational opportunities for trackers, tracklayers, and judges
- Opportunities for trackers to work together and learn together
- Works with local organizations and agencies to promote tracking in a canine-friendly atmosphere.

Led by a group of dedicated volunteers, the Club is licensed by the American Kennel Club to host AKC licensed Tracking Tests. The normal venue for our tests are sites such as:

- Philip Sheridan Army Reserve Center, Fort Sheridan, IL
- Dupage County Government Center, Wheaton, IL
- Harry Hines Veteran's Hospital, Hines, IL

Contact Information:

Ed Presnall
Box 769
New Munster, WI 53152
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Lois Breslow
8430 Major Avenue
Morton Grove, IL 60063
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e-mail: l.breslow@gte.net

Moraine Tracking Club - www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/4425



The American Kennel Club

The American Kennel Club was founded in 1884. It is the nation's leading not-for-profit organization devoted to the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. Affiliated with nearly 4,500 American dog clubs, the AKC operates the world's largest registry of purebred dogs and is a leader in the international canine community. The AKC advocates canine good health and responsible ownership. In 2000, there were more than 15,000 dog events sanctioned and regulated by the AKC. In addition, there are more than 3,900 nonmember clubs holding events under AKC Rules and Regulations.

The AKC's goal is to serve the dedicated breeders, exhibitors, judges, handlers, delegates, dog owners and other enthusiasts who make the sport of dogs a cherished institution. As a "club of clubs," the AKC has no individual members. It is comprised of 557 member clubs, each represented by one voting delegate at quarterly meetings. The delegate body elects a 13-member board of directors that sets policy at meetings held eight times per year.

The AKC supports the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, underwriting scientific research to safeguard and advance the health of purebred dogs. The American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog, supported by the AKC, promotes understanding and appreciation of purebred dogs through its world-famous collection of canine art and artifacts.

The AKC is managed by a professional staff under the direction of the President/Chief Executive Officer at the club's headquarters in New York. AKC Operations, based in Raleigh, North Carolina, is under the direct supervision of the Chief Operating Officer.

AKC Contact Information:

Ms. Patricia R. Krause
Assistant Vice President
5580 Centerview Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 854-0175
e-mail: prk@akc.org
www.akc.org

Index of Photographs

PAGE	LOCATION	BREED OF DOG	DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPH
1	Cover	Clumber Spaniel	CH Andchelle Lord Raglan TD, VST working in a parking lot
3	Upper Right	Cocker Spaniel	Winston's Poison Ivy following a track along a building
3	Bottom Left	Australian Shepherd	Jasper Lil' Bear of Tucker Creek Can TD tracking down a flight of steps
4	Top Left	English Springer Spaniel	CT CH Classic's Brigantine MB, CD, MX, AXJ, CGC following a track across a cement patio in the rain.
4	Top Right	German Shepherd Dog	New Skete's Beva Zika TDX, CGC working on asphalt surface past a parked truck in a university parking lot.
4	Lower Right	Field Spaniel	CT CH Calico's Hot Pursuit Del Prado Can TD at the start flag. Note people walking by. He is holding the start article in his mouth to gather additional scent.
5	Upper Right	Toy Manchester Terrier	U- CDX CH Busy Bee Lady Astor CD, MX, AXJ holding an article
5	Lower Left	English Foxhound	Irish Eye's Amazing Grace TDX following along a sidewalk
5	Lower Right	Beagle	Moose Morris TD
6	Upper Right	English Springer Spaniel	CH Kay N Dee Hiddenbrook Rampage CD, TD, VST following the track on brickwork down a covered walkway
6	Lower Left	Miniature Wirehaired Dachshund	DC Pocketpack Voice Mail MW CD, TDX, ME, OA, OAJ working a doorway
7	Upper Right	Dalmatian	U-CD Lyn-Del's Man From Uncle, CD, OA, OAJ, FDCh, AD following scent down a flight of stairs
8	Upper Right	Golden Retriever	CT Topbrass Jake's Pot O' Gold CDX, JH making a turn away from a building and tracking towards a small landscaping berm

PAGE	LOCATION	BREED OF DOG	DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPH
9	Upper Right	Basset Hound	CH Jonas' Madelynn Q Ruffian CD, TDX the judges follow the working team down a gravel road
9	Lower Left	English Cocker Spaniel	Glen Oaks A Christmas Carol TDX, NA, NAJ working across a parking lot
10	Lower Left	Border Collie	Wildfire Smoking Gun TDX, NA, NAJ, FDX, CGC licking scent along the track on an asphalt parking lot
10	Right	Map	Hand drawn track layer map. Note use of buildings and roads. Not to scale.
11	Upper Left	Shetland Sheepdog	Lyn-Del's Mission Impossible CD, AX, AXJ downing at an article
11	Upper Right	Basset Hound	CH Mabest's Montgomery Dreyfus CD, TDX working transitions from grass to cement sidewalk to grass and onto a cement curb and street
11	Lower Right	Border Collie	CT Comyn Around The Bend UD
12	Upper Right	Vizsla	Serendipity's Hidden Treasure CD, TD working along a glass building
12	Lower Left	Beagle	Moose Morris TD a happy tracker leading her handler along the track
13	Upper Right	Golden Retriever	Lookout's Le Chamonix, TDX, AX, CGC working along a landscaped area
13	Lower Left	Doberman	BISS/CH Dunrala's Liquorice Black Lexus TD, TT crossing a gravel area
14	Center	Document	Sample copy of General Liability Insurance Policy

The listing of letters before and after the dogs names are representative of titles earned by the dog and handler in canine sports such as conformation (dog shows), agility, obedience, hunting, flyball, herding and tracking. Although these dogs excel in multiple venues they are all beloved pets and friends of their owners.