

VST



**An Introduction To
Variable Surface Tracking**

Developed for the Moraine Tracking Club

by Ed Presnall

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VST



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Pawmark Press



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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 fol-

low 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.

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
- Basset Hound
- Bernese Mountain Dog
- Bloodhound
- Border Collie
- Cardigan Welsh Corgi
- Clumber Spaniel
- English Springer Spaniel
- Field Spaniel
- Flat Coated Retriever
- German Shepherd Dog
- German Shorthaired Pointer
- Golden Retriever
- Labrador Retriever
- Miniature Poodle
- Pembroke Welsh Corgi
- Portuguese Water Dog
- Rottweiler
- Shetland Sheepdog
- Standard Poodle
- Belgian Tervuren
- 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
- Lincolnshire Business Park, Lincolnshire, 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 attached sample copy, next page)

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

ACORD CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE ACORD FORM NO. 0001 (08/10)

Insured:
 F 4 Box 2027
 1208 Mack Centre Way Box 100
 Colorado Springs CO 80902-2127
 (719) 592-0777

Insured Name:
 Moraine Tracking Club, Ltd.
 5, 802 Parkview Street
 5805 S. Acadia Ct. Box 8008
 Aurora, CO 80014

Company:
 A First Star Insurance
 B 1755 Benjamin Franklin at 80th Street
 C
 D

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.

COVERAGES:

COVERAGE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNTS	CONDITIONS	EXCLUSIONS
B	LIABILITY	1,000,000	EXCESS OF 100,000	SEE POLICY
C	PRODUCT LIABILITY	1,000,000	EXCESS OF 100,000	SEE POLICY
D	COMBINED AUTO LIABILITY	1,000,000	EXCESS OF 100,000	SEE POLICY
E	UTILITY SERVICE LIABILITY	1,000,000	EXCESS OF 100,000	SEE POLICY
F	LANDSCAPING	1,000,000	EXCESS OF 100,000	SEE POLICY
G	CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS	1,000,000	EXCESS OF 100,000	SEE POLICY
H	INSURANCE DEFENSE COSTS	1,000,000	EXCESS OF 100,000	SEE POLICY
I	ADDITIONAL COVERAGES	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
J	COVERED AUTO	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
K	NON-COVERED AUTO	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
L	PROPERTY DAMAGE	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
M	ADDITIONAL COVERAGES	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
N	INSURANCE DEFENSE COSTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
O	UTILITY SERVICE LIABILITY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
P	LANDSCAPING	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
Q	CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
R	INSURANCE DEFENSE COSTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
S	ADDITIONAL COVERAGES	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
T	COVERED AUTO	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
U	NON-COVERED AUTO	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
V	PROPERTY DAMAGE	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
W	ADDITIONAL COVERAGES	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
X	INSURANCE DEFENSE COSTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
Y	UTILITY SERVICE LIABILITY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
Z	LANDSCAPING	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AA	CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AB	INSURANCE DEFENSE COSTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AC	ADDITIONAL COVERAGES	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AD	COVERED AUTO	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AE	NON-COVERED AUTO	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AF	PROPERTY DAMAGE	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AG	ADDITIONAL COVERAGES	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AH	INSURANCE DEFENSE COSTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AI	UTILITY SERVICE LIABILITY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AJ	LANDSCAPING	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AK	CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AL	INSURANCE DEFENSE COSTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AM	ADDITIONAL COVERAGES	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AN	COVERED AUTO	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AO	NON-COVERED AUTO	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AP	PROPERTY DAMAGE	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AQ	ADDITIONAL COVERAGES	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AR	INSURANCE DEFENSE COSTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AS	UTILITY SERVICE LIABILITY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AT	LANDSCAPING	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AU	CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AV	INSURANCE DEFENSE COSTS	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AW	ADDITIONAL COVERAGES	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AX	COVERED AUTO	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AY	NON-COVERED AUTO	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY
AZ	PROPERTY DAMAGE	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY	SEE POLICY

Signature: Signature of [Name] [Title]

Cancellation: This certificate is void if the above described property is not maintained as shown for continuous period for 30 days.

Insured Name: Moraine Tracking Club Ltd, 5805 S. Acadia Ct, Aurora, CO 80014

AGENCY USE ONLY: [Stamp]

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
- Lincolnshire Business Park, Lincolnshire, IL

Contact Information:

Ed Presnall

Box 769

New Munster, WI 53152

(262) 537-2458

e-mail: edp@pawmark.com

Lois Breslow

8430 Major Avenue

Morton Grove, IL 60063

(847) 966-7908

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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

PG	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.
5	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 |
| 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 work-
ing 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 han-
dler 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.

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