



**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR:**

**2026 SCENT WORK JUDGES' TRAINING PROGRAM**

**NOVICE AND ADVANCED CLASSES JUDGING LICENCE**

**EXCELLENT AND MASTER CLASSES JUDGING LICENCE**

**CLOSING 28 FEBRUARY 2026**

Dogs ACT is planning to conduct Scent Work Judges' Training in 2026 for Dogs ACT members seeking to apply to undertake the training course to judge the following Classes:

**Novice and Advanced Classes  
Excellent and Master Classes**

The course is expected to commence in late March 2026 and conclude in by the end of 2026.

The course will include theory and practical training components, with theory and practical examinations at the completion of the course.

The course fee of **\$75** must be submitted with the attached application form. Applicants must provide evidence supporting their claims against the Program's eligibility criteria below (approximately 1-2 page/s). Further information will be sought if required.

Before attending course lectures or undertaking practical training sessions, aspirants for the Novice and Advanced Classes course may be required to undertake a preliminary written theory examination covering the Dogs Australia and Dogs ACT Rules and Regulations relating to judging requirements, and the general requirements of the Dogs Australia Rules for the Conduct of Scent Work Trials.

Dogs ACT must approve all aspirants entering the Program. Numbers may be limited to ensure the necessary support and resources to those undertaking the Program can be provided.

Applicants should make themselves familiar with the requirements of the Program (refer to "Dogs ACT Scent Work Judges Training Scheme"). This includes the **eligibility criteria** which requires an applicant must:

- "3.1.1 Be a member of an ANKC Member Body for a period of not less than three (3) years prior to the application and be a current financial member of Dogs ACT
- 3.1.2 Be over eighteen (18) years of age
- 3.1.3 Reside in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), unless special permission has been obtained. (See s3.4).

Further:

3.4 To be eligible to apply for:

3.4.1 NOVICE and ADVANCED CLASSES JUDGING LICENCE

- 3.4.1.1. The applicant must have personally trained and trialled a dog to a minimum of a Scent Work Advanced (SWA) title.
- 3.4.1.2 The applicant must have at least three (3) years' experience in scent work training/education/instructing.
- 3.4.1.3 The applicant must have stewarded at least once in each of the Elements in the Novice and Advanced Classes at a minimum of three (3) Scent Work trials in the past three (3) years.

#### 3.4.2 EXCELLENT and MASTER CLASSES JUDGING LICENCE

- 3.4.2.1 The applicant must have personally trained and trialled a dog in the Scent Work Excellent Class.
- 3.4.2.2 The applicant must have stewarded at least once in each of the Elements in the Excellent and Master Classes at a minimum of three (3) Scent Work trials in the past three (3) years.
- 3.4.2.3 The applicant must have judged at least three (3) different Elements in each of the Novice and Advanced Classes at a minimum of three (3) Scent Work trials."

Consideration may be given on an exception basis to applications for the Program that meet most (but not all) of these criteria, where the applicant can demonstrate the capacity to meet the requirements within a reasonable time.

Applications addressing the Eligibility Criteria and with a completed application form and application fee should be submitted to Dogs ACT (admin@dogsact.org.au ) **AND** the Scent Work Trainee Judges' Course Coordinator (Julie Cutts – jarrah236@gmail.com) by **COB 28 February 2026**.

**NOTE:** Dogs ACT may, at its absolute discretion, refuse to accept an application from a person who meets the above criteria if it considers that the person is not otherwise suitable to be approved as a judge. Aspirants not admitted to the course will receive a full refund.

Enquiries: Julie Cutts – 0438 931712 (not after 8pm)