

AKC Handler Discrimination is part of the greater sport of AKC Scent Work, but it is a separate category from the odor divisions, which use essential oils. The HD scent is the handler's scent and is provided by the handler: a cotton glove or sock in novice and cotton ball(s) at the higher levels. Handler scent is the faintest of all odors dogs are taught to recognize in AKC Scent Work. The dog usually has to be right in the vicinity of the article to find it since the scent cone is very small.

Handler Discrimination

	Novice	Advanced	Excellent	Master
Search Environment	Container	Interior	Exterior	At least 2 different
# of Hides	1	1	1	3
Article	Cotton glove/ cotton sock	Cotton balls/ swabs	Cotton balls/ swabs	Cotton balls/swabs
Number of Scents	1 handler 1 judge	1 handler 1 judge	1 handler 1 judge	3 handler 1 judge 1 steward
Max Height	On ground	24" (2 feet)	24" (2 feet)	24" (2 feet)
Distractions	None	None	1 non-food	1 or 2, non-food, food, visual, auditory, human, or mimic
Time	2 minutes	Set by judge; 2-5 minutes	Set by judge; 3-6 minutes	Set by judge; 2-3 minutes per search area
Search Area Size	250-400 sq ft	150-400 sq ft	400-600 sq ft	2 areas; 300-800 sq ft total