



Handling of Scent Tips from DSA's Right on the Nose Scent Challenge

- ✓ Never leave odor out when you are not training your dog. Store your kits and hot boxes/containers in a room/basement/garage where your dog never goes. DSA Scent Kits can also be stored in the refrigerator between sessions to prevent Q-tips drying out (cold/less excited molecules disperse slower than warm/hot molecules).
- ✓ Always place Q-tip inside a scent vessel before hiding. This prevents residual odor contaminating your search location and prevents your dog coming into direct contact with the oil - and possibly ingesting the Q-tip!
- ✓ Move Q-tips back to the glass storage vessels to store – this prevents odor contamination from plastic, which has its own odor.
- ✓ Use a paper towel to cover the work surface when you add Q-tips to scent vessels in case you do drop a Q-tip.
- ✓ Use tweezers to hold the Q-tip (by the unscented tip) and disposable gloves to handle tweezers and scent vessels – this isolates the odor you're rewarding your dog for, rather than mixing it with your scent which you want to reward in separate training sessions and prevents odor transfer to your hands and outside of the scent vessel. Hands, work surfaces and floors can be washed with undiluted white vinegar, but it doesn't remove the odor entirely.
- ✓ You can teach scent work using cocktails but be mindful that odors dissipate at different rates and your dog may not link the reinforcement history to all the target odors within the cocktail until you separate them and reinforce them individually.
- ✓ Q-tips contaminated by saliva, treats, dirt or different scented Q-tips can be re-used, but should be stored in separate, glass containers from "uncontaminated" ones (e.g., washed/aired baby food jar). Label the jar accordingly so you'll know what you're working with next time you use them.
- ✓ Q-tips should last about 2-3 months if stored properly.
- ✓ Consider any containers that have held a scent vessel to be hot FOREVER! That means don't use the container as a cold container (unless it's proofing for an experienced dog) as your dog will likely hit on it. Store hot containers separately from cold containers.
- ✓ In your DSA Scent Kit, mark your straws to remind you which odor it carries (this prevents cross-contamination with another oil). If/when you're ready to purchase more scent vessels, consider color-coding them – it makes returning the Q-tip back to the correct storage vessel quicker than having to smell each of them.

Scent Kit Contents

- Air-tight vials holding scented Q-Tips (all 4 target odors)
- Scent vessels to hold scented Q-Tips
- Sticky dots