



GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

Alert – A natural behavior that your dog exhibits that lets you know that it has caught scent, often called, “Interest.” An alert may be a trained indication and/or another behavior that is a behavioral “clue” that the dog is in odor.

Indication – A trained behavior “clue” that the dog has found the scent source.

Aggressive Indication – “Trained” bark or scratch to indicate the location of the scent source.

Back-chaining – The process of chaining in reverse order, teaching the last behavior first.

Behavioral Momentum – This is the increased productive pace of behavior development through effective continuity in training. It is much easier to keep a behavior going when it is already progressing.

Classical Conditioning – “The process of associating a neutral stimulus with an involuntary response until the stimulus elicits the response.”¹

Chaining – “The process of combining multiple behaviors into a continuous sequence linked together by cues and maintained by reinforcement at the end of the chain. Each cue serves as the marker and the reinforcement for the previous behavior, and the cue for the next behavior.”²

Chimney Effect – Scent travels along the ground coming in contact with a warm tree or rock, then rises, spurred on by the warm surface, only to loop and fall later as it cools.

Crumbs – Small particles of scent, still in place from predominant winds, even after current wind has changed direction. The longer a scent source is in place, the more likely it is for crumbs to be present.

Current Wind – What the wind is doing in real time.

Drive – The inescapable response to the dog’s natural instinct.

Distress – Any mental, physical, or emotional pressure the dog experiences that demotivates the dog to continue working. Distress diminishes drive!

Eddying – Tendrils of odor that snake along the ground, sometimes as part of the scent cone, sometimes away from pools, at the mercy of air movement.

Eustress – Also called “Good Stress.” It’s the stress that encourages work and is motivating. It comes with building confidence that a problem can be solved. Eustress can quickly become distress if the handler is not focused on what the dog is experiencing.

Imprinting – For our purposes, it is the rapid learning process that establishes the relationship of scent with reinforcement through classical and operant conditioning.

Indication – A trained behavior “clue” that the dog has found the scent source.

Jackpot- When your dog gets the behavior reward with multiple “rewards” given in rapid succession.

Leeching – When scent soaks into its surroundings. This can be carried by saturated tree roots or damp soil. It can also happen when you spill your oil on the seat of your car, so be careful!

Looping – Rising scent, usually being carried by warmer air, eventually cooling and falling back to earth, sometimes creating large gaps between pools and a source. Looping can occur from a chimney effect or rising temps can make it happen in volatile air.

1 This Classical Conditioning definition was taken from Karen Pryor’s, www.clickertraining.com.

2 This Chaining definition was taken from Karen Pryor’s, www.clickertraining.com.

3 This Operant Conditioning definition was taken from Karen Pryor’s, www.clickertraining.com.



Dog Scouts of America
Glossary of Terms

Scent Discrimination
Advanced Scent Discrimination
Expert Sniffer - Interiors
Expert Sniffer - Exteriors

Nose Time – Period of which the dogs’ ability to detect scent is effective. Over-saturation and stress can affect this.

Operant Conditioning – “The process of changing an animal’s response to a certain stimulus by manipulating the consequences that immediately follow the response. The five principles of operant conditioning were developed by B.F. Skinner. Clicker training is a subset of operant conditioning, using only positive reinforcement, extinction, and, to a lesser extent, negative punishment.”³

Passive Indication – Trained sit, down, or nose poke, or focus to indicate scent source.

Passive/Aggressive Indication – Trained sit, down, or nose poke along with a trained bark or scratch to indicate scent source.

Predominant Wind – The wind direction at source location for the majority of the year.

Scent Cone – As the wind blows by source, particles of odor are pushed away. The further these particles go, they tend to spread. Stronger winds will keep the cone width smaller. Gentler winds will allow scent particle patterns to widen, as it moves farther from source.

Scent Pool – When scent is concentrated in an area away from source. A scent trap can be an example. Even dry tall grass will often hold onto scent, creating a pool.

Scent Source – The breathable vessel which contains an absorbent material to hold scent.

Scent Stick – Wooden spoon, stir stick, or dowel, impregnated with scent used for target imprinting.

Scent Trap – When environmental factors cause scent to stick to an area, such as water, mud, or damp grass.

Targeting – Teaching a dog to touch a stationary object with a part of its body.

HELPFUL LINKS:

[Scent Discrimination Badge](#)

[“Leave No Trace” Principles](#)

Dave Kroyer’s, [“Training Through Pictures – Nosework 1”](#) & [“Nosework 2”](#)

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