

# Official NACSW™ NW3/Elite Trials

March 19, 2022-March 20, 2022

## TRIAL LOCATION:

Westmoreland County Community College  
Public Safety Training Center  
65 Public Safety Drive  
Smithton, PA 15479

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is not appropriate to contact **OR VISIT** the trial location prior to the trial date, nor should training take place on trial grounds once an event is approved/announced. Our locations are real life search environments where people work, go to school, etc. Pre-trial contact or visits risk the host's losing the opportunity to use the location again in the future.

## Trial Host:

Steel City Nosework, LLC

**NW3: Saturday, March 19, 2022**

**Elite: Sunday, March 20, 2022**

There are no BSL restrictions.

**Certifying Official:** Donna Hreniuk

**Judges:** Linda Murphy & Walt Feno

## Entry Cost

**NW3:** \$175 per dog and handler team

**Elite:** \$190 per dog and handler team

## Number of Entries

**NW3:** 38 entries

**Elite:** 30 entries

One dog per handler per level/element.

Event attendees are required to adhere to the NACSW [COVID-19 Event Guidelines and Rules](#).

In addition to those guidelines the following changes and guidelines are in effect for this trial at this time due to COVID-19:

- Everyone at the event, regardless of vaccine status, may be required to wear a mask while indoors.
- Pennsylvania currently has no travel restrictions. Please refer to your own state guidelines when deciding whether it is safe to travel.
- Per the CDC, fully vaccinated (2 weeks after last vaccination with an FDA-authorized vaccination) can safely travel within the United States.
- If you are not fully vaccinated (2 weeks after your last vaccination), you should adhere to the CDC guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>. This includes wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing at all times while at the event.

- Everyone at the event must attest to the following information:  
I represent and affirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief: (1) I neither have COVID-19 nor am I waiting for test results; (2) I have not been tested and found positive for COVID-19 or, if I have tested positive for COVID-19, I certify that I have been released by government officials and/or health care providers to resume normal activity without limitations; (3) I have not, during the past 14 days, experienced symptoms associated with COVID-19 including but not limited to fever, cough or shortness of breath; and (4) to the best of my knowledge and belief, I have not within the past 14 days been in contact with and/or exposed to any known carrier of COVID-19. I agree to follow any specific event guidelines, precautions and/or requirements to mitigate the possibility of event participants or attendees contracting or spreading COVID-19. I understand the risks of contracting and/or being exposed to COVID-19 associated with my attendance at this event, and I knowingly accept those risks.
- Everyone at the event is encouraged to maintain social distance and to be respectful of the wishes of others.
- Competitors are asked to bring their own hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

If there are any significant changes or updates after the draw period, entrants will be notified via email. Competitors are responsible for staying up to date on any jurisdictional requirements for their home location as well as the trial location, including any travel guidance.

Details regarding site-specific COVID-19 restrictions that will be in effect at the time of the trial are not known at this time, and may be relaxed or stricter at the time of the trial.

Details regarding mandatory restrictions and requirements as they exist at the time the final details email will be included in that email. You must comply with these mandatory restrictions. We will attempt to email competitors about any changes that occur after the final details email goes out but we ask for your understanding that there are many tasks that must be accomplished during that time so there may be new details when you arrive at the trial. You will not be required to bring with you any equipment of which you did not have advance notice. If a change such as this happens, we will provide the requisite equipment if we cannot provide you with advance notice.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

At this time, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health has no travel restrictions. Travelers should still practice appropriate public health measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. These guidelines may be relaxed or stricter at the time of the trial. Please refer to the following link for the current Pennsylvania travel restrictions: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

## TRIAL ENTRY INFORMATION

### **Trial Entry Open and Closing**

- The draw period for the trial will open on January 31, 2022 at 12pm EST. Entries will be awarded by random draw of all entries received between 12pm EST on January 31, 2022, and 12pm EST on February 2, 2022.
- Trial entry will close at the end of the draw, if the trial and wait list are deemed full. If the trial and wait list are not deemed full, the trial will remain open for entries until they are deemed full or the day of the trial.
- We will not be taking payment until you are given a space in the trial. If you are given a space in the trial, you will receive information on how to submit payment. You will then have five (5) business days

to submit payment by **CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY**.

### **Entry Method**

All entries will be online via the link to the NACSW™ trial entry form provided. Paper and phone entries will not be accepted. Completing the form is not a guarantee of entry. You will receive a confirmation email from [chasethescent@gmail.com](mailto:chasethescent@gmail.com) to let you know if your entry has been given a space in the trial.

### **Entry Requirements & Selection**

**A Qualified Entry is one that meets all the following criteria:**

1. Complete the online trial entry during the draw period listed above.
2. The Handler is a NACSW™ member for the 2021-2022 membership year (8/1/21 - 7/31/22).
3. The Dog is registered with the NACSW™.
4. Dogs participating in a trial must be at least one year of age.
5. The Dog has achieved the ORT title (passed all 3 odors) and prior title level at least 14 days before the trial opens for entries. This applies to all levels effective April 1, 2021.
6. Qualified Entry for NW3 - Dog has earned a NW2 title and has not yet earned the NW3 Elite title.
7. Qualified Entry for Elite – Dog has earned the NW3 Elite title and has not yet earned the ELT-CH title.

**Trial spaces will be determined in the following manner:**

- Spaces will be awarded by a random draw of all Qualified Entries received during the draw period listed above.
- In the event that you are having technical difficulties with the entry system, please email [trialentry@nacswnet.net](mailto:trialentry@nacswnet.net) prior to the end of the draw period.
- No dog will be given a space in more than one trial of the same level at a single event.
- You may enter multiple dogs for entry in the draw. However, only one dog/handler per title level will be accepted into the trial. Entry will go to the dog selected in the draw – you may not swap to an alternate dog. If multiple dogs are selected in the draw, you may select which dog you wish to enter. Once a dog has been entered as a second dog/handler entry, you may not swap handlers after the draw to change the entry to a first dog/handler unless the trial is not full.
- If a trial level is not full after the draw of Qualified Entries, then there will be a Secondary Draw of any entries received that did not meet the ORT title or title requirements. These entries will be accepted pending completion of the requirements. **Note:** Dogs must earn their ORT title and prior title level at least 3 days prior to the trial date to be eligible to compete. If the required title or ORT title is earned less than 14 days prior to the event, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the host that the requirement has been completed.
- If the trial and waitlist are not full after all entries received during the draw period have been processed, entries will continue to be accepted in the order they are received until the trial and waitlist are deemed full.
- For Exhibit Only Dogs (FEO): Dogs running FEO are not eligible to receive titles or earn placement ribbons. FEO results will not be included in the posted trial results. If space remains after all Qualified Entries are accommodated on February 26, 2022, then we will offer spaces for those who wish to run a dog For Exhibition Only (FEO). Second dog/handler FEO entries on the same day will be offered spaces after February 26, 2022.
- The trial host of an event has the right to refuse entry of any competitor or dog for just cause as approved by the National Trial Committee. Just cause includes lack of adherence to NACSW™ rules and guidelines and the policies outlined in each event entry premium.
- Some trial entries may be given priority entry based on contributions to the organization and the trial

process.

You will be notified via e-mail of the results of the random draw by 12AM EST on February 9, 2022. If you have a spam blocker on your email account, please configure it to allow email from [chasescent@gmail.com](mailto:chasescent@gmail.com) in order to ensure delivery of confirmation and information about this trial.

You will then have five (5) business days from notification to complete your payment by check or money order to confirm your space in the trial. Checks or money orders should be made payable to “Raymond Kohan” and mailed to Raymond Kohan, 219 Pollick Lane, New Kensington, PA 15068. **Please make a note on your check or money order indicating which trial that you are submitting payment for.**

If you receive a spot and do not plan to accept the entry, please email us at [chasescent@gmail.com](mailto:chasescent@gmail.com) as soon as possible to let us know. We have no way of knowing if you have received the notification. This will allow us to keep our competitor and waitlists up to date. It also gives the next person on the waitlist time to make arrangements to attend if you do not want your spot.

A waiting list for alternates will be started as soon as entries fill. Alternates will be contacted when a space opens and they are first on the waitlist. Depending on last minute trial logistics, the host may opt not to fill cancelled spaces.

NACSW™ reserves the right to cancel a trial if minimum entry numbers are not met.

*Be sure you read and understand the guidelines for this trial before entering. By submitting a registration for this NACSW™ Trial, you acknowledge that you have read, understand, and accept the policies and liability information of NACSW™.*

## CANCELLATION POLICY

The following cancellation policy applies:

- For cancellation of entries at or before 5pm EST February 19, 2022 – Full refund minus a \$30 processing fee.
- For cancellation of entries after 5pm EST on February 19, 2022, and at or before 5pm EST on March 5, 2022– 50% refund if host can and does fill your space with a Qualified Entry.
- For cancellation of entries after 5pm EST on March 5, 2022– no refunds will be issued, except for titles earned and properly notified, and for positive COVID tests as stated below.
- No refunds will be issued for cancellations during the last 72 hours before the event or for no-shows.
- No refunds will be issued based on COVID mandatory restrictions that are disclosed in the confirmation or final details emails. Further, no refunds will be issued due to any CDC, state or local government restrictions or changes that occur after final details emails have been sent.
- Refunds due to positive COVID test – Host may issue a 50% refund after 5pm EST on March 5, 2022, if competitor tests positive for COVID (official documentation required) **AND** host can and does fill your space with a Qualified Entry. Please note: Due to time constraints, the host may opt not to fill cancelled entries and no refund will be issued.
- For cancellations that meet the above guidelines, refunds will be issued within 30 days and no later than 14 days after the trial date.
- If you earn the title for the level you are entering after the refund period has ended then you must contact the trial host at [chasescent@gmail.com](mailto:chasescent@gmail.com) within 48 hours of earning your title and at least 72 hours before the trial you are registered for to let them know you are no longer eligible. If you contact the host

within 48 hours of titling and at least 72 hours before their trial and (1) they are unable to fill your space with a Qualified Entry then you won't be given a refund but will be allowed to keep your space in the trial and run your dog FEO or (2) they are able to fill your space with a Qualified Entry then a refund will be issued minus the processing fee listed in the cancellation policy. If you fail to contact the host within 48 hours of earning your title and at least 72 hours before the trial for which you are registered then you will forfeit your space, you will not be allowed to run FEO and no refund will be issued.

- All cancellations must be emailed to [chasethescent@gmail.com](mailto:chasethescent@gmail.com). Cancellations are not valid without confirmation of receipt from [chasethescent@gmail.com](mailto:chasethescent@gmail.com).
- Entry fees shall not be refunded if a dog or handler is absent, disqualified, or excused by a NACSW™ official or judge.
- *This cancellation and refund policies apply to competitors that must withdraw for any reason including but not limited to injury, illness, emergency, and personal- or work-related reasons.*
- *If the trial cannot take place or be completed by reason of fire, civil disturbances, an Act of God, public emergency or any other cause beyond the control of the trial organizers, then the trial host will make their best effort to provide partial refunds after recouping their expenses.*

## LOCATION DETAILS

### **Trial Conditions**

Modeled after real-life detection work, NACSW™ trials are held in many different locations, with a variety of terrain, under varying weather conditions. Dogs and handlers need to be able to safely negotiate a variety of surfaces, including, but not limited to, steps, tile, linoleum, carpeting, gravel, asphalt, uneven surfaces, and slippery footing. Handlers should be prepared to deal with a variety of weather conditions, including heat, cold, rain and snow. Trials frequently require covering extensive distances to get to and from the parking area to each of the search areas and generally require that this be done across natural, uneven surfaces. Handlers should be prepared for the physical demands and must be able to navigate the terrain with their dog accordingly. Participants should expect to spend most of the day outside or in their vehicles as there are rarely indoor crating options at trials. Please be prepared for you and your canine partner to deal with all these varying environmental challenges. Handlers should familiarize themselves with potential regional risks and health concerns that may affect themselves or their dogs. Handlers agree that they are entering this trial at their own risk.

### **Site Specific Conditions**

This trial location is a public safety training center. There may be unavoidable long walks to access some of the search areas. Competitor parking will be in an asphalt parking lot. The search areas may require you to navigate asphalt and/or gravel roads and stairs (Driving to and from search areas may or may not be possible. Determination will be made the day of the trial.)

Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, the expected search areas, parking, and pathways to the search areas may be modified at the last minute.

### **Reactive Dog Parking**

There will be reactive dog parking at this trial. Please email [chasethescent@gmail.com](mailto:chasethescent@gmail.com) if you wish to reserve a reactive dog parking space. Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, this policy may be modified at the last minute.

### **Unentered Dogs**

**QUIET** and well-behaved unentered dogs may be brought to the trial. Unentered dogs must remain in the competitor's vehicle during the trial day. There will be ample potty areas, but unentered dogs should not be allowed to "play," exercise, or train on the trial grounds.

## **RV Parking**

There is limited RV parking available. We can accommodate smaller RV's in the parking lot, but **DO NOT** assume that we can accommodate your RV. **Overnight RV parking on site is not permitted.** You **MUST** contact Ray Kohan [chasethescent@gmail.com](mailto:chasethescent@gmail.com) to make sure there is enough RV parking areas.

Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, this policy may be modified at the last minute.

## **Running Vehicles or Generators in the Parking Lot**

Limited running of vehicles or generators in the competitor parking lot is permitted only to take the edge off of the cold. Running your vehicle for the entire day is not permitted. Please be considerate of your neighbors in the parking lot. If you are inconveniencing your neighbors in any way by running your vehicle, you will be required to move away from the main parking area. It will still be your responsibility to monitor the progress of the trial and no one will come to get you when it is your turn to run. Due to unforeseen conditions, such as weather or change in availability of areas at the location, this policy may be modified at the last minute.

## **Smoking**

Smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes, is not allowed on this trial site.

## **Hotels**

A list of area hotels is available here. Please contact the hotel directly for more details on their pet policy.

- Comfort Inn, 4300 State Route 51, Belle Vernon, PA, 15012, (724) 929-3177
- Clarion Inn, 827 Finley Road, Belle Vernon, PA, 15012, (724) 243-5111
- Comfort Inn, 106 Bair Blvd, New Stanton, PA 15672, (724) 755-2400
- Days Inn by Wyndham New Stanton PA, 127 W Byers Ave, New Stanton, PA 15672, (724) 925-3591
- Motel 6 New Stanton, PA, 221 E Byers Ave, New Stanton, PA 15672, (724) 925-1444
- Econo Lodge, 110 North Main And, Byers Ave, New Stanton, PA 15672, (724) 925-6755

## **DOG INFORMATION**

### **Dog Policies**

- All dogs must be on a 6' leash at all times when not being tested. No flexi-leashes while not participating in a competition search.
- Dogs that need space from dogs may wear a red bandanna, to be provided by the dog's handler, to help signal others that the dog needs extra space from other dogs.
- Dogs will be toileted in designated areas and handlers must pick-up and dispose of waste in designated containers.
- Dogs and handlers must stay in designated areas to avoid contaminating testing space, interrupting a test or viewing any part of the testing.
- Competitors should expect to keep their dogs confined in a crate or vehicle when not competing. The logistics of a trial typically do not allow for dogs to hang out on leash in between searches. Competitors should plan to provide their own shade using canopies or shade cloths.
- Refer to Site Specific Conditions (above) for information on unentered dogs.

### **Females in Season**

Will be allowed to run wearing “pants” at the end of the running orders after all other dogs have been judged. Females in season will be parked and pottied in areas separate from the other dogs while at the trial if the location logistics permit. Handlers must contact [chasethescent@gmail.com](mailto:chasethescent@gmail.com) so plans can be made for the female in season.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### **Rules**

Complete rules are available at [www.NACSW.net](http://www.NACSW.net). **It is the responsibility of each competitor to read and understand the current NACSW™ Rule Book prior to participating in a NACSW™ event.**

### **Liability**

By registering for the trial, competitors and attendees hereby assume all risks of, and responsibility for, accidents and/or damages to her/himself and/or to her/his property, from any cause, and/or to others resulting from the actions of her/his action(s) and/or dog(s). Competitors and attendees expressly agree that Westmoreland County Community College Public Safety Training Center; the NACSW™; Steel City Nosework, LLC; Raymond Kohan and/or their assignees and/or any other agent(s) of said individuals or entities shall not be held liable personally and/or collectively under any circumstances for injury and/or damage to her/himself, for loss and/or injury to property, whether due to uncontrolled dogs and/or negligence of any agent(s), member(s) or employee(s) of said individuals or entities, and/or due to any other cause(s). Competitors and attendees also agree to assume all financial liability that may be incurred by Westmoreland County Community College Public Safety Training Center; the NACSW™; Steel City Nosework, LLC; Raymond Kohan and/or their assignees and/or any other agent(s) of said individuals or entities due to the actions of themselves and/or their dog(s), regardless of the cause(s).

### **Sportsmanship**

All competitors/handlers and spectators are expected to follow the rules of the NACSW™ and demonstrate good sportsmanship. This includes making sure the hide placements are unknown to the handler prior to testing and kept secret from other competitors. Please do not discuss hide placement or any details of a dog's performance that may provide information or clues to other handlers or may be overheard.

### **NACSW™ Results**

Results for each search and overall will be posted after all searches are completed and scores are verified for you to record your results for your own records. It is your responsibility to ensure your scores are accurate prior to leaving trial grounds. If a discrepancy cannot be verified at the trial, you may be instructed to submit a score card review request. It is not the responsibility of the host or NACSW™ to return score sheets that are left behind or to mail ribbons that are not picked up.

### **Spectators**

Spectating will be allowed at some elements, space permitting and at the Certifying Official's discretion. Spectators may not photograph or video searches. Children under 18 must always be directly supervised by a parent/guardian. An adult accompanying a minor must be present during the searches. No dogs will be allowed in the spectator area. No unentered dogs with spectators are allowed at the trial. Spectators are reminded that the hide placements must not be discussed and they should not speak with any competitors about what they saw until after the trial is complete. Everyone at the trial site must sign the waiver provided by the host and comply with all event requirements.

### **Videorecording and Photography**

At the host's discretion, a video service and/or photographer may be present during the trial to offer videos

and/or photographs for sale to competitors.

Handlers may wear visible head or chest cameras to record their searches. You will not be allowed extra time at the start line to get your camera functioning. Please be sure it is ready to go prior to arriving at the search area. Videos may not be made public until completion of the trial day.

No photography or video by spectators or volunteers is permitted.

As a condition of your entry, you agree to allow NACSW™ and/or their agents to video you and your dog during the entirety of the NACSW™ event. These videos are the property of NACSW™. All competitors, through entry at any NACSW™ event, waive any and all rights relative to video broadcast or photography of such event.

### **Questions**

For all trial related questions, please contact Ray Kohan at [chasethescent@gmail.com](mailto:chasethescent@gmail.com).