

SWGDOG SC1i – TERMINOLOGY

For Public Comment 1/19/2010 – 3/19/2010

Terms in “Track Changes” are previously approved terms that now have changes.

Term	Definition	Annotations
Certifying official	A person who has been delegated the authority to conduct an evaluation and / or sign certificates on behalf of an organization or entity, that recognizes a team has been trained to a particular standard within the organization.	
Handler	A person who has successfully completed a recognized course of canine handling, as outlined in SC5, in a specific discipline and maintains those abilities through field application, maintenance training, scheduled recertification, and continuing canine education.	
Least Reinforcing Scenario (LRS)	All interaction or reinforcement, positive or negative, is withheld for a period of time (generally a few seconds) so as not to reinforce an undesirable behavior or lack of response. Used to help reduce frustration that might result from a lack of reinforcement.	<p>In a training scenario where known aids are placed for an exercise, the canine completes the exercise without a positive response the canine is ignored for a brief period of time (given no attention, negative or positive) and then redeployed to find the target.</p> <p>Also considered another form of negative punishment; “timeout”</p>
Odor recognition	Demonstration of the dog’s ability to identify a target odor(s).	
Odor recognition test	A test of the dog’s ability to discriminate target odor(s).	
Remote Training Collar	A manually operated training device that produces an electrical stimulation at varying degrees of intensity and duration via a small transmitter incorporated into a dog collar. Some collar models also include a tone or vibration setting, as an alternative or in conjunction with the electrical stimulation.	Also called Remote Trainer or Electronic (E) Collar. This is not the same as a bark, or invisible fence collar.
Variable Reinforcement	Reinforcement schedule in which the timing and/or delivery of the reinforcer is unpredictable.	Also referred to as intermittent reinforcement.

These terms were previously approved and are shown here with proposed changes.

Term	Definition	Annotation
Absolute Threshold	<p>Operational usage: The minimum intensity of a stimulus that is detected by a particular dog. In the case of odor it is the minimum concentration of vapor. This threshold varies from dog to dog and is affected by climate and the internal and external environment.</p> <p>Scientific usage: AT is determined by a statistical average based on the point where a specific compound can be detected via machine-50% of the time.</p>	<p>Note: This definition acknowledges that large and small amounts of the same compound don't necessarily smell the same to the dog. The "absolute" may not be as relevant as it was formerly because of recent developments in learning.</p>
Certifying Officials / Assessors	<p>Suitably authorized individuals <u>suitably authorized by an organization or agency trained</u> to administer and assess an examination of relevant skills for <u>the</u> canine team.</p>	
Detector/Detection Dog	<p>Operational usage: A dog trained to detect and alert /respond/indicate to the presence of certain scents / odors for which it has been trained.</p>	<p><u>May be referred to as a law enforcement service dog, which is not to be confused with dogs covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).</u></p>
False positive	<p>Operational usage: A response indicating that something is true or present when it is not. <u>This can only be verified in a controlled testing scenario. Also referred to as false alert.</u> See false response.</p> <p>Scientific usage: Type I error.</p>	
Final Response	<p>Operational usage: A behavior that a dog has been trained to exhibit in the presence of a target odor source. This behavior may be either passive (sit, stare, down, point, etc.) or active (bite, bark, scratch, etc.).</p>	<p>An absence of a final response does not necessarily negate any behavioral responses given earlier in the alert sequence. Therefore, absence of a final response does not mean a target odor is not present. See specific SC documents and definitions for</p>

		<p>what is an acceptable response given the relevant operational needs.</p> <p>See Alert.</p>
Odor	<p>Operational usage: The chemical mixture of volatile compounds that stimulates the olfactory neurons.</p>	<p>See scent.</p> <p>“Scent” has traditionally referred to human detection.</p> <p>“Odor” has traditionally referred to substance detection.</p>
Reliability	<p>Operational use: Low probability of alerting to anything other than a target odor and a high probability of alerting to a target odor.</p> <p>Legal Usage: Evidence that establishes a fair probability that a target odor is present.</p> <p>Scientific usage: The extent to which a measurement is repeatable and consistent and free from random errors; all measurements have random components because of imperfections in the measurement process, and the fact that when we measure something we usually change it a bit. Reliability is determined by precision, sensitivity, resolution, and (consistency). It is the extent to which similar results are obtained when measuring the same behavior on different occasions.</p> <p>Engineering and technical definition: Mean time to failure of equipment. (MTTF)</p>	<p>Note: This term is often used in science when assessing how well an observer has measured behaviors. There are 2 categories of observer reliability: 1) <i>intra-observer reliability</i> (or observer consistency) - how consistent the observer is at evaluating the same behavior at different times or in similar dogs. 2) <i>inter-observer reliability</i> - how consistent different observers are when evaluating the same dog.</p>
Residual Odor	<p>Operational usage: Odor that remains from training aids or actual objects of focus once the aids or objects have been removed. This arises from detectable or undetectable substance.</p>	<p>Also referred to as lingering odor.</p>
Scent cone	<p>Scientific usage: The path of dispersion that the odor follows in the given wind or air currents, and in a given thermal environment.</p>	<p>See odor plume.</p>
Trainer/Instructor	<p>Operational usage: Any member of a specific discipline who is in a situation</p>	<p>Refer to SC 5 for further differentiation.</p>

	of instructing any part of the canine / handler team using established methods and validated training guidelines .	
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