O.D.O.R. Gluten/Allergen Test Elements Overview

Purpose

The gluten/allergen detection service dog must be able to demonstrate the ability to discriminate the target odor in a variety of scenarios a handler may encounter as a team. As such, there are four elements that will be tested, making up the overall O.D.O.R. Gluten/Allergen Minimum Standards Test, those elements are:

- Controlled Search™ Element
- Packaged Items Element
- Mealtime Element
- Independent Work Element

There are two options for completing this test: an in home only option and a public testing option. The public testing option would require either the Packaged Item Element or the Mealtime Element be performed in public. If the team passes, a certificate of completion will reflect if the dog was tested at home or in public. If the team passes the "home only" test and later wishes to perform the "public" test, the team need only repeat either the Packaged Item Element or the Mealtime Element test in public (the team must meet the prerequisites for in-public testing).

Controlled Search™ Element

The Controlled Search™ Element requires the dog to identify the target odor(s) when presented with samples placed inside identical containers. This element tests the dog and handler working as a team in close proximity, and provides a means of attempting to control for accidental contamination.

Packaged Items Element

The Packaged Items Element requires the dog to identify the target odor(s) when presented with prepackaged food and non-food items (personal hygiene, medication, supplement, cosmetic, etc.). This element tests the dog and handler working as a team in close proximity, and demonstrates a real-world scenario of the working dog performing checks for items used or consumed by the handler.

Mealtime Element

The Mealtime Element requires the dog to identify the target odor(s) when presented with foods and beverages on plates, bowls, and in cups. This element tests the dog and handler working as a team in close proximity, and demonstrates a real-world scenario of the working dog performing checks for meals prepared for the handler.

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Independent Work Element

The Independent Work Element may be one of three options selected by the handler: Room Search Element, Containers Search Element, or Controlled Search™ Element with Handler Bias Removal Controls. The purpose of this test element is to verify that the gluten/allergen detection dog is able to work independently from the handler, and is designed to minimize handler bias and the possibility of the handler inadvertently cueing the dog. The handler must select ONE of the three options:

- Room Search Element
- Containers Search Element
- Controlled Search™ Element with Handler Bias Removal Controls

Details of the guidelines and requirements for the Room Search Element and Containers Search Element can be found in the O.D.O.R. Room Search Element Guidelines and O.D.O.R. Containers Search Element Guidelines documents.

If a handler selects the Controlled Search™ Element with Handler Bias Removal Controls option, this will REPLACE the above Controlled Search™ Element. The containers used for a Controlled Search™ with Removal of Handler Bias must be opaque so that the handler and dog cannot see the contents of the containers. The handler will not know which samples contain the target odor and which do not. The containers may be marked on the bottom, identifying which containers contain the target odor and which do not. However, the handler may not look at the marks until after the dog has performed a Controlled Search™ and given a trained indication behavior for the presence or absence of the target odor.

Prerequisites

If the team elects to do the public testing option, and will be in areas that are not pet friendly or service dog in training friendly, they will need to submit the following prior to being eligible for testing:

- Health Certificate provided by a veterinarian, including proof of vaccination or titers required in the handler's local area.
- Proof of training that the dog is suitable to work in the public. One of the following will be accepted:
    - O.D.O.R. PAT (Public Access Test, or similar)
    - UKC Socialized Pet Obedience Test (SPOT)
    - PDA Level 2 (Pet Dog Ambassador, available through Pet Professional Guild, must be current)
    - AKC CGC (Canine Good Citizen)

- If the team has passed a similar manners test not listed, it is up to the discretion of the Evaluator to accept.
- If the person is in need of public access testing, they can email the O.D.O.R. Program Director and be paired with one of our Evaluators for the O.D.O.R. PAT.

Timing and Filming

All tests will be filmed. In the event that the Evaluator cannot be physically present, the team being tested may submit a video of each of the elements.

Both the dog and handler must be completely visible in the frame at all times, and must be able to be heard. Should any questions arise about the scoring and performance of the team, the Evaluator may review the recorded test.

A test may be stopped at the discretion of the O.D.O.R. Evaluator if at any time the Evaluator deems the dog or handler to be under distress, or iif the handler has a medical crisis.

Example O.D.O.R. Gluten/Allergen Standard Test Scenarios:

The gluten/allergen detection service dog will be tested in each of the four elements: Controlled Search™ Element, Packaged Items Element, Mealtime Element, and Independent Work Element. The following are examples of the choices a handler may make for evaluating their dog:

Scenario 1 (This scenario would be advisable for a handler with an airborne allergen reaction who benefits from knowing when it is safe to enter a room):

- Controlled Search™ Element
- Packaged Items Element
- Mealtime Element
- Room Search

Scenario 2 (This scenario is appropriate for most teams):

- Controlled Search™ Element with Handler Bias Removal
- Packaged Items Element
- Mealtime Element

Scenario 3 (This scenario is appropriate for most teams):

- Controlled Search™ Element
- Packaged Items Element
- Mealtime Element
- Containers Search Element