

Making Scents of the Urban Jungle—



"The Seminar"

By

Steve Ripley

"Steve Ripley has an easy-going style that leads the participants through the world of VST, first with his wonderful CT dog, Zoe, then by helping less experienced dogs and handlers learn to negotiate the pitfalls of the VST world. Everyone who attends one of his seminars will come away with a better understanding of how to plan tracks, how to become a team with his dog, how to read his own dog and how to solve problems." Susan Eldred, tracking judge and co-author of Fascinating Scent.



"In this seminar, we got the "zen" of VST work - not just practical "how-to's" and tips, but also insight into the mindset required to adjust to (and train for) the particular demands of VST work. It was excellent!" Marty Siegrist

"I felt the seminar made the VST seem less mysterious, more doable..... I would recommend anyone sign up." Farr Hinton



A comprehensive 2 day learning adventure based on the booklet, focusing on scent training work in an urban environment with the emphasis on improving the skills and confidence of both dogs and handlers.

Topics will be covered through power point presentations, discussions and demos with CT trained dogs when available. The emphasis of the second day will be working with novice (to VST) dog and handlers so everyone can watch the dogs and handlers learn the lessons covered on the first day. Novice working dogs should understand basic tracking and are limited to 2 dogs.

- Tracking styles
- Article placement
- When to start training
- Tracking scent posture for your dog
- Aging
- Handling distractions while tracking
- Track plotting for training
- Scent in the urban environment
- Excuses
- Handling and its importance
- Training methods and tricks
- Motivation & Conditioning
- When are you ready to enter a test
- What to expect on test day





About Steve

My interest in tracking began over 30 years ago when our Golden Retriever Feather, earned her TD title. My wife had no interest in working on a TDX title so I took over the challenge. On our second try we were successful and that was when I was hooked. A couple of old friends, also judges, mentored me into the judging challenge. I have been judging over 30 years, at all levels of tracking. The biggest honor of my judging career, was being asked to judge the 2007 AKC Tracking Invitational. This was a most memorable and lifetime achievement.

After I was approved to judge VST tests in 1995, I felt the need to learn more about the title that I was judging. With this in mind, I set out to train Zoe to her CT title. I felt I would make a better judge if I had actually experienced the problems that one encounters during the training journey. Zoe successfully completed the training program by passing her VST test on the first try. This at the tender age of 2 years and 6 months old. At that time, she was the youngest dog to earn that title. I am currently training another dog, Archie for his CT title. As a part of the training process, I decided it was a good time to refresh in my mind the steps that Zoe and I took in our quest for her CT title. As a part of this process, I documented the steps taken and have written them into a booklet. The seminar is based on the information presented in the booklet.

My objective of the seminar is to share with the participant all of the tips, problems, and pitfalls I have encountered over my years of judging and observing the behavior of dogs while tracking. This will make the training experience easier, and more enjoyable on the journey to earning that coveted "CT" title.



Seminar Specifics



- A maximum of 40 participants, 8 of whom will work their dogs on both days. Of the 8 not more than 1 should be a novice dog (need to be TD ready). These dogs and handlers will be aided if necessary, so their success will be guaranteed and their performance will be used to point out differences between TD/TDX tracking and VST work.
- Contact me for the cost of the Seminar.
- I am asking that all attendee's purchase a 2nd edition copy of my book @ \$30. This will be a great refresher for after the seminar. Those that already have a copy don't need to buy a second one, unless they want to.
- Tracking related handcrafted totes will be available for sale @ \$20.
- Further questions and contract details for a seminar can be directed to:



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To email remove the two spaces in the above address.

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