

WELCOME TO  
**THE JUDGE'S CORNER**  
MONTHLY NASDA NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE 1.1 JANUARY 2023

## UPCOMING JUDGE'S WORKSHOP DATES

### **EASTERN U.S.**

April 7-8

Y'Allred Acres Hopkins, SC

Presenter: Liz Carter

### **WESTERN U.S.**

May 25-26

All Dog Sports Park Lodi, CA

Presenter: Liz Carter

### **SOUTHERN U.S.**

September 22-24

Mountain Home Dog Sports

Mountain Home, AR

Presenter: Jessica Clough

If you are interested in hosting a Judge's Workshop in your area or region contact Jessica at [judging@NASDA.dog](mailto:judging@NASDA.dog)

## 2023 NASDA INVITATIONAL NEWS

**June 21-26**

**Arlee, MT**

**Judge's Workshop, UCG, Brace**

**BOB Showcase**

**Invitationals**

**Hosted by: Montana K9 Sports**

*Welcome to our Judging Program*

Kim Kern – Vassar, Michigan

Martha Metzler-Ghofranian – Livermore, California

## FROM THE MOBILE DESK OF THE JUDGING DIRECTOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I finished off 2022 with a fantastic month-long NASDA road trip to the Midwest and Southeastern regions of the U.S. to finish off the last 2022 Judge's Workshop in Cokato, MN, and to judge in Michigan and Tennessee fulfilling many Apprentice Judges' requirements along the way and meeting dozens and dozens of new NASDA dogs and handlers!

Great job to all the hard-working clubs, crew, and judges for bringing NASDA to so many different states across the U.S. in 2022. It is most impressive to see the caliber of the newbie teams starting in NASDA this past year!

I very much look forward to more travels this year, and working with all the NASDA Judges, Clubs, and competitors!

I am also looking forward to releasing some new features to the Judging Program this year! This newsletter is the first of many new additions!

~Jessica Clough, Judging Director

## Meet the Judge

### **Judging Director/Senior Judge, Jessica Clough**

Jessica resides in NW Montana and operates Montana K9 Sports. When NASDA was introduced to the dog sport world she knew it was a special sport with so much to offer dog and handler teams in the US and Canada that she quickly became devoted to the growth of the organization! At the end of 2021 she joined NASDA as the Judging Director. When not hosting events, judging, and training judges, Jessica enjoys competing with her Dutch Shepherd, Belgian Laekenois, German Shepherds and Labrador Retrievers.

## MONTHLY MEMO

### NASDA Judges Unite!

NASDA events are unique in the world of scent searching and detecting sports because, in most NASDA classes, the Judge makes The Find Call for teams.

This means that Judges should be well versed in a variety of searching styles and indication behaviors performed by dogs of all breeds, temperaments, physical capabilities, genetic traits/tendencies, drive levels, and tenacity levels.

Judges are not looking for dogs to have a single obedience style indication behavior at source.

Instead, Judges are to make their Find Call based on an accumulation of /series of behaviors, behavior changes and commitment unique to each dog they judge.

The nature of NASDA is for Judge autonomy- it is normal and natural there be a wider variation of Find Calls between different judges.

As NASDA Judges we need to remember:

- Always be open to dialogue with other judges about the details of making the Find Call, dog body language and behavior changes in personal settings with each other
- NASDA Judges will ALWAYS have more to learn about dog body language and behavior changes – there's always another dog out there that will challenge what a Judge thinks they know about making accurate Find Calls
- NASDA Judges are a community of dog enthusiasts who specialize in reading dog body language and changes in behaviors – be positive, be open and help grow each other's knowledge pool by continuing open dialogues and choose to always want to learn

Judges also need to be mindful of what they say at trials while watching other judges. Criticism of another judge's calls should never be made out loud for anyone to hear. Waiting to start an open dialogue with another judge about Find Calls/dog body language and behavior changes until judging has stopped is appropriate Judge etiquette. And remember, as Judges, we are always learning.

### *DID YOU KNOW?*

NASDA has Judges from 23 states/provinces!

## Judging Challenges

### Judging Paths and Positions

One of the biggest challenges when judging is being able to set challenging hides in search areas that you can still judge accurately.

Before a Judge begins their class, they need to ensure they have determined:

- A **Judge's Starting Position** in the search area that will be used for all dogs
- **Judge's Call Positions** -ideally more than one location in the search area one can visually confirm a Find from
- Convenient and efficient **Judge's Paths** through the search area from Starting Position to the Call Positions
- Judging Paths that allow you to **maintain visual contact** through the entire run – being able to see teams go around corners and behind objects.
  - faults can be incurred anywhere on the course
  - For unknown hides- hide location could be anywhere- Judges should judge every inch of the search area

If a Judge suddenly finds themselves in a poor position to make a call while a dog is lingering, showing interest in, and acting with intent in the direct vicinity of the hide location for a substantial duration of time– give the team the benefit of the doubt and make the Find call.

Explain to the handler the situation and then make a change to your path or position for subsequent dogs.

This may also change the precedence of your Find Calls for subsequent dogs.

In next month's issue we will discuss this further!