

WELCOME TO
THE JUDGE'S CORNER
MONTHLY NASDA NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 1.3 MARCH 2023



UPCOMING JUDGE'S WORKSHOP DATES

EASTERN U.S.

April 7 Hopkins, SC
Hosted by: NASDA

WESTERN U.S.

May 27-29 Lodi, CA
Hosted by: All Dog Sports Tails &
Trails

SOUTHERN U.S.

September 22-24 Mountain Home, AR
Hosted by: Mountain Home
Dog Sports

If you are interested in hosting a Judge's
Workshop in your area or region contact
Jessica at
judging@NASDA.dog

2023 NASDA INVITATIONAL NEWS

**June 21-26
Arlee, MT**

Hosted by: Montana K9 Sports

The event will start Wednesday with
a Games Tournament, Den Hunt and
a Brace Showcase!

Committee planning is underway!

Contact Jessica Clough to be part of
the Championship planning.

Montanak9sports@yahoo.com

Welcome to our Judging Program

Stephenie Galvan, Michelle Colston – CA
Michelle Eadie – Alberta, Canada

FROM THE MOBILE DESK OF THE JUDGING DIRECTOR

We will be surpassing 100 NASDA Judges by the end of the first quarter of 2023!

With this milestone it is important to note that from Apprenticeship through Licensed status you are the face of NASDA whenever you are in a public setting – whether you are at a NASDA event or on social media.

As a NASDA Apprentice, Provisional or Licensed Judge you are responsible for demonstrating good sportsmanship, ensuring all NASDA rules and regulations are followed and are supportive of new members.

We are lucky to have so many new NASDA faces this year – both competitors and officials – that we want to ensure our organization stands strong and remains the welcoming and supportive environment it started out as.

Congratulations to all of you for helping us reach this milestone!

~Jessica Clough, Judging Director

Meet the Judge

Senior Judge/Event Director, Angelique Shear

When not hosting NASDA trials at the gorgeous All Dogs Sports Park venue in sunny Lodi, CA, you can find Angie traveling around the west coast judging NASDA trials and training new apprentices. At the end of 2021 Angie joined the NASDA team as the Event Director. Angie enjoys other dog show and dog sport life with her Airdale Terriers. Angie has been in dogs her whole life, training, showing and competing with them in conformation, obedience, rally, dock diving, scentwork, barn hunt and agility.

Judge's Continuing Education

Judging NASDA trials takes officials skilled in understanding:

- odor movement
- realistic & natural environments for the 4 different events
- appropriate challenges for each level
- the variety of dog hunting style/techniques
- the variety of body language signals dogs display from searching to sourcing
- the variations in commitment and intensity within dogs
- the current rules and regulations of the sport
- current events/rules that are in testing periods

To ensure our NASDA Judging Officials stay in top form and are knowledgeable in the most current NASDA affairs and topics of discussion we are beginning to enforce a yearly continuing education mandate.

This will allow all Apprentice to Licensed Judges the opportunity to work closely with the Judging Director and/or other Master and Senior Level Judges.

It is also very important that judges are committed to traveling outside their local areas to:

- work in different climates and environments
- work with a different pool of competitors
- work with judges from other regions

As we are growing, and spreading across the Nation and Canada we want to ensure that all NASDA Judges represent the organization accurately, have a strong understanding of search work in a multitude of regions and environments, have exposure to other officials from across the Nation and Canada, are privy to the most current topics and issues and work with a variety of different teams from across the Nation and Canada.

This work can be accomplished by:

- 1) Signing up for a Judge's Workshop – these are highlighted in green on the event calendar. More locations will be added as the months progress. Feel free to reach out to the Judging Director if you want to bring a workshop to your area!
- 2) Work closely alongside a pre-approved Supervising Judge at a trial outside your normal judging region. You can contact me at judging@nasda.dog for more information.
- 3) Take judging assignments outside your region to connect with other clubs and judges.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can pace off search areas extremely quickly and accurately if you know how many of your normal strides equal 10 ft. And most often you can double your stride number for 20 ft. As you walk, or have your judges assistants walk off areas for boundaries, you can ensure your search areas are the size you want them.

Judging Challenges

Judging Criteria – Making The Call

1. Flexibility

As a judge, in a sport where the dog truly has the most understanding of what odor is doing, it is very important that NASDA Judges are flexible in where they make their Find Call at. While a judge may have ideas as to where odor is accessible and where they'd like to see dogs show commitment to, always being aware that there may be dogs who tell you differently with commitment is vital to being a fair judge.

Ex: you place a hide in a floor level cabinet with the door shut – it would be safe to assume that odor would be escaping through the edges of the cabinet door.

A judge may plan to make their Find Call at any point a dog shows commitment to anywhere along the edge of the door.

But, if after 10 dogs showing commitment there, another dog begins to scratch, bark and bite at the back of the cabinet along the wall, a judge must recognize commitment to getting into the cabinet. Although, it is not the common place or expected place for a dog to commit to, the dog is showing commitment to get inside the cabinet. And, when referring to the INTENT of the hide from the previous article: a hide inside a cabinet is to challenge the dogs to say they want inside the cabinet.

2. Consistency

Once a judge makes the Find Call in an area outside where they had originally planned, it is important to be as consistent as possible when judging the remaining dogs in that class!

In the next article, we will be discussing the mistakes we make as judges during these challenging situations and how we can address the mistakes we make to continue to be as open to learn from the dogs we judge, to be as fair a judge as possible and to keep an open dialogue with our competitors.