

SWGDOG SC11 – TERMINOLOGY

Posted for Public Comment 4/24/2012 – 6/22/2012

Terms in “track changes” are previously approved and being modified after required two year review.

Term	Meaning	Annotations
Behavior	Any measurable response <u>action</u> of a dog.	See Stimulus control.
Behavior Modification	The application of a behavioral technique <u>to modify or change a behavior</u> (e.g., positive reinforcement) to change a behavior .	Ex. <u>The use of environmental manipulation to modify behavior. See also operant conditioning and classical conditioning.</u>
Confidence	<u>The ability to execute working tasks amidst distractions, environmental pressure, etc. May be an inherent trait or developed through conditioning/experience</u>	<u>The ability to overcome fear of heights, surfaces, or confined areas, etc. and work effectively. As an inherent trait also referred to as nerve strength. See also boldness and courage</u>
Cueing the dog	Operational usage: A verbal or physical action (done consciously intentional or unconsciously unintentional) by anyone, and/or any environmental stimulus that causes a detector dog to change its actions to respond to an area or item whether target odor is present or not.	It is important to note that we <u>Deliberately cueing may be used during initial training a dog to initially train it. Cueing the dog may be done in other circumstances such as obedience.</u> Also called “keying the dog” <u>or “prompting the dog”</u>
Drop Aid	<u>A target material used to motivate and assess a canine’s performance during extended operations</u>	
Escape Learning	A conditioning technique in which the subject learns to escape or terminate an unpleasant stimulus <u>by performing a desired response.</u>	<u>Ex. The dog grasps a bumper to terminate an ear pinch or returns to heel to terminate electric stimulation</u>
False Alert		<u>See false positive</u>
False positive	A response <u>identified by the handler indicating</u> that something is true or present when it is not. This can only be verified in a controlled testing scenario. Also referred to as false alert <u>however the preferred term is false positive.</u> See false response. Scientific usage: Type I error.	<u>Term false positive is used in reference to the canine team search, not just the dog’s behavior.</u>
False response	Operational usage: In a controlled	<u>Term false response is used in</u>

	environment, the dog responds as if a trained substance was present when it is known that it is not. This is false response and a false positive. <u>Scientific usage: A false response is a false positive or a false negative.</u>	<u>reference to the dog's behavior, not the outcome of the canine team search.</u> <u>It is recommended to use the terms false positive and false negative rather than false response.</u>
Keying the dog	(Operational usage) A verbal or physical action by the handler which causes a detector dog to change its actions or to respond to an area or item whether target odor is present or not.	See Cueing.
Latency	The duration of time between the discriminative stimulus (SD) being presented and a response being elicited <u>emitted</u> .	Ex. The amount of time between the dog finding the target odor and giving the trained response.
Nerve strength	<u>The measure of the dog's ability to manage stressful situations including threshold to stress and recovery time.</u>	<u>For example, a dog with low nerve strength startles easily and takes a long time to recover.</u> <u>See also boldness and courage</u>
Neutral Stimulus or Cue	Any stimulus that has no effect on behavior before conditioning.	Ex. Pavlov's dogs had no reaction to a bell prior to the bell being paired with food. The bell was a neutral stimulus initially.
Odor	Operational usage: The chemical mixture of volatile compounds that stimulates the olfactory neurons. <u>Scientific usage: The sensation derived by the stimulation of the olfactory system by a mixture of volatile compounds.</u> Scientific usage: See odorant	See Scent. "Scent" has traditionally referred to human detection. "Odor" has traditionally referred to substance detection.
Odor recognition	Demonstration of the <u>The dog's ability to alert change of behavior</u> to a target odor(s).	
Odorant	Scientific usage: <u>The chemical mixture of volatile compounds that stimulates the olfactory neurons.</u> Molecules that are properties of the external world objectively defined in terms of their physical and chemical characteristics and capable of being transposed by particular nervous systems into odors.	

Prompt	A previously learned association that stimulates the initiation of a response. Instructions, gestures, physical guidance and modeling cues serve as prompts.	See also <u>Cueing and Keying</u> .
Sensory Threshold	Operational usage: A character trait which describes <u>Describes</u> the amount of a <u>stimulus</u> which is necessary to elicit a response from the dog.	
Signature Odor	See Target Odor. <u>Characteristic profile of volatiles from a material</u>	
Superstitious Behavior	<u>Increase or decrease in a response(s) due to the delivery of non-contingent reinforcement or punishment.</u>	<u>Ex. While teaching a dog to sit the dog happens to bark and links the two behaviors together. The dog believes the bark is one of the behaviors being rewarded so the behavior continues.</u>
Unconditioned Response	Scientific usage: See classical conditioning. <u>A response to a stimulus that does not require prior conditioning.</u>	
Unconditioned Stimulus	Scientific usage: See classical conditioning. A stimulus that produces a response without previous experience or training <u>conditioning</u> .	