

## **But I want to search for odour!!! Isn't that what Nosework is all about????**

Actually, no, for the DOG, it is all about hunting.....searching for something that THEY want....THEY don't care if it's "odour" or "primary". You could stay on food or toy forever as far as the dog is concerned.

How do you know if your dog is ready to search for "odour"?

First ask yourself....WHY do you want to introduce odour? (is it about your needs or the dog's needs??? either answer is correct, just be clear and honest with yourself)

Before you consider introducing odour, ask yourself these five questions:

1. Have you given your dog EXPERIENCE searching in many, many different search environments—the backyard, the park, a parking lot, around people, around movement, a different part of town, a different town?
2. Is your dog COMFORTABLE searching in all these different environments?
3. Can your dog search independently in these environments for an extended period of time? (this means not turning back to you for help or seeking redirection from you)...note that dogs don't 'false alert' to primary, only to 'odour'.
4. Can you read your dog's change in behaviour when searching?—what exactly does your dog DO when he/she encounters odour and when he/she is trying to get to source? These changes of behaviour are involuntary and will be specific to YOUR dog and will never change (this is very different from a trained alert).
5. Can you get yourself to your dog fast enough to reward quickly?