



*DFW Tracking Club  
Presents Steve Ripley's  
Making Scents of the Urban Jungle*



## 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.

## Space is limited to 10 working teams!

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 PowerPoint 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.

- 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

**Date: January 31—Feb 1, 2009**

**Location: Harris Methodist Hospital—Bedford, TX**

**Cost: \$225 Working Team \$125 Audit (includes book and breakfast/lunch both days)**

**For registration form please visit [www.dfwtc.org](http://www.dfwtc.org) and click on Events.**

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