

#	Section	Type of Comment (E-Editorial, T-Technical)	Comments	Proposed Resolution	WG Proposed Resolution
1			<p>My concern on these standards as they are written have to do with the "aged" trail requirements. It focuses on the time delay between when the track is laid and when it is started by the dog. There are many stories about bloodhounds trailing aged sent, even up to multiple days old, however just as important as the age of that track is the environmental and climate conditions those tracks are in.</p> <p>In order for any dog to perceive any scent, the scent has to be viable. My experience and studies have indicated that much human odor can be destroyed in short order by sunlight as well as other environmental conditions. In order for any dog of any breed to be able to follow a trail, first and foremost the scent has to remain viable for the dog to detect, and that varies from trail to trail. Before such standards are put into place, I would challenge further study in real world training applications with trainers who are independent, and have no vested interest one way or the other who can provide double blind studies that show these dogs are capable of doing tracks consistently that are 24 hours or more. I would even recommend that they do such studies incrementally starting with tracks that are as little as 6 hours old and work up from there with each track being double blind, in multiple climate and environmental conditions to determine what the proper thresholds really are. I have watched many bloodhounds work and none seem to have performed any better than good quality German Shepherd dogs, and some did not match the capabilities of the Shepherds. The abilities of hounds to trail aged scents is almost the thing of legend and yet real life experience may teach us that we may be perpetuating false expectations and possibly false information. This is dangerous given that evidence from these dogs can be used to convict suspects of capitol crimes. Is there a double blind study of proven consistent reliable successful tracking of trails 24 hours or more that can back up these expectations? Have we just accepted the status quo or are there facts to back up this capability? I have never seen any such study or information that would back this up from an objective viewpoint.</p>		<p>Reject: While the group acknowledges the fact that human scent is affected by environmental conditions, studies have shown that variables such as high temperature have been studied in structured experimental studies. Human scent was proved to be viable after controlled explosion activities occurred, thereby showing that high temperatures such as during an explosive activity does not destroy human scent for canines to provide a reliable trail (Curran et al 2010)</p> <p>Std 026 is not breed specific and it is applicable and should be used for all breeds.</p> <p>We also recognize that more research is needed, but this type of certification is already being done by several national detection canine certification bodies, therefore, there is a need for this standard.</p> <p>Few examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FBI Case Examples: <a href="https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/about-us/lab/forensic-science-communications/fsc/july2004/research/2004_03_research03.htm">https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/about-us/lab/forensic-science-communications/fsc/july2004/research/2004_03_research03.htm</a></li> <li>2. Davia T Hudson 1, Allison M Curran, Kenneth G Furton. The stability of collected human scent under various environmental conditions, Journal of Forensic Science. 2009, vol. 54(6), pp. 1270-7.(doi: 10.1111/j.1556-4029.2009.01153.x. Epub 2009 Sep 8.)</li> </ol> <p>Lastly, the article submitted alongside this comment is based on the personal opinion of the author and this commentary is not peer reviewed.</p>