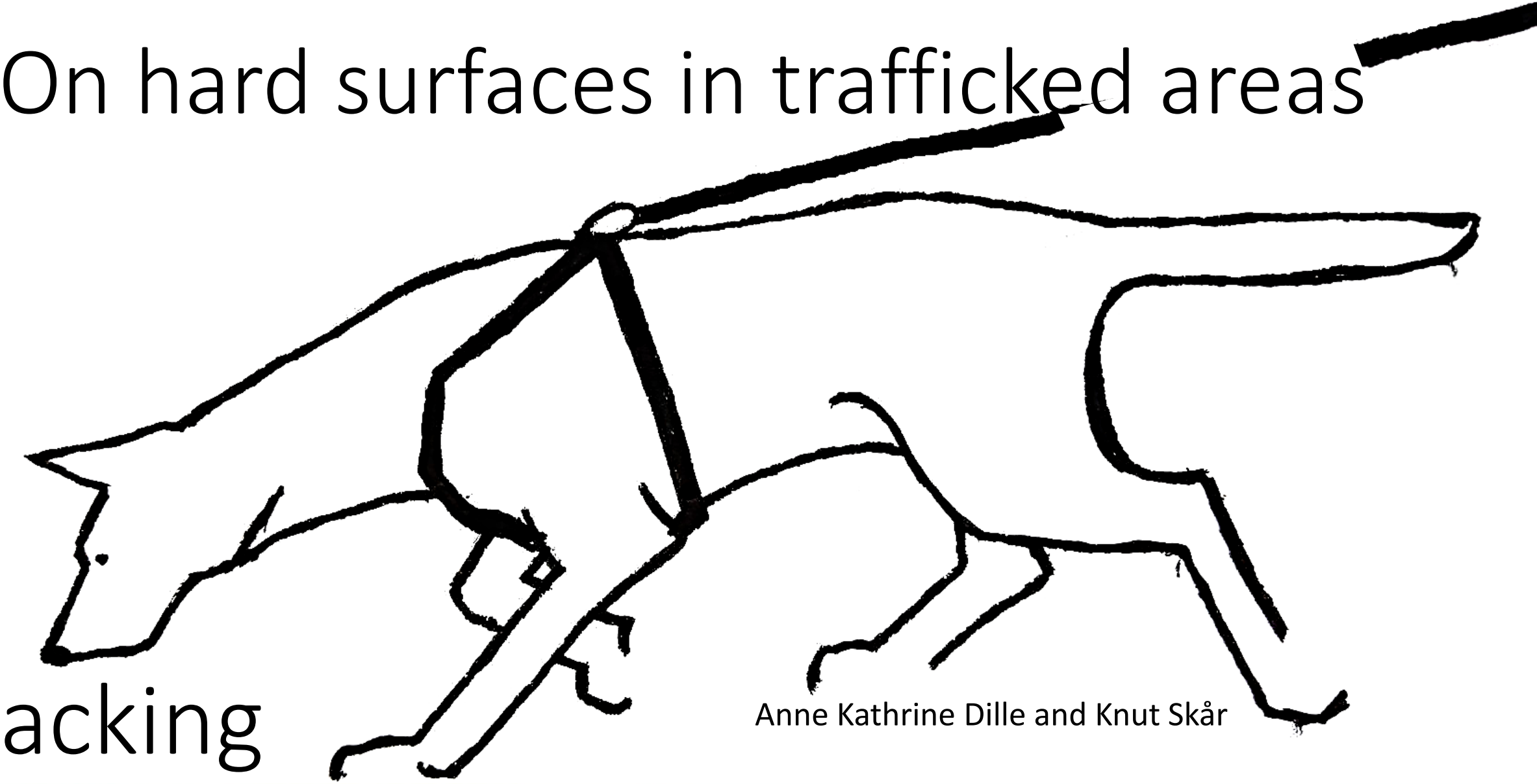
On hard surfaces in trafficked areas



Tracking

Anne Kathrine Dille and Knut Skår

WHY ?

- Our dogs have to pass tests in tracking, but tracking are rarely used in callouts
- More frequent callouts in urban areas (hard surface in busy areas)
- The dog-handler has to be sure of the dogs ability to solve such tasks.
- Many finds could have been done quicker if tracking was preferred search method.

Tracking is fun!

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- Made a standardised plan and a set of tools baked into a course.
- A set of methods to improve tracking to almost be ID tracking (trailing)
- Adapted for standard rescue dogs and their dog handlers.
- Education of the dog handler in tactics and where to start the track

This will improve the team to use tracking on all kind of surfaces to do quicker finds.

One week course

- Based on dogs with trailing skills (approved rescue dogs in Norway)
  - 1km wilderness track 3 – 4 hours old, 4 objects + end (can be crossed)
- 3 theory lessons
- Starting with basic tracking on hard surface
- Adding on rapidly more “difficult” tasks for the teams.
  - Following a progress plan
- Focus on rewarding the dog. (timing and precision)

Lesson 1, tuning the dog and handler

- Concentration
  - A concentrated , calm dog has a better base and prerequisites to achieve desired tracking skills. (Tracking on hard surface demands a accurate dog who can stand disturbances)
- Routines
  - You should use same routines every time you are tracking with you dog. (Start from fetching the dog in the car).
  - Good routines at the start of the track (has to be individual adapted to your dog) makes it easier for the dog to recognise the task and he can be concentrated from start.
- Reward
  - What is a good reward for the dog, and why is it important to have a good reward.
- Ability and precision to reward at right place in right time
  - Use a helper until you a sure to have this ability.
- Ability to read the dogs behaviour.
  - focus on the task and not on everything else.

Tip

Learning the dog to be interested in small objects and how to indicate them before you start tracking.

Example on indication of small objects in the track (little scent)

Other learning points

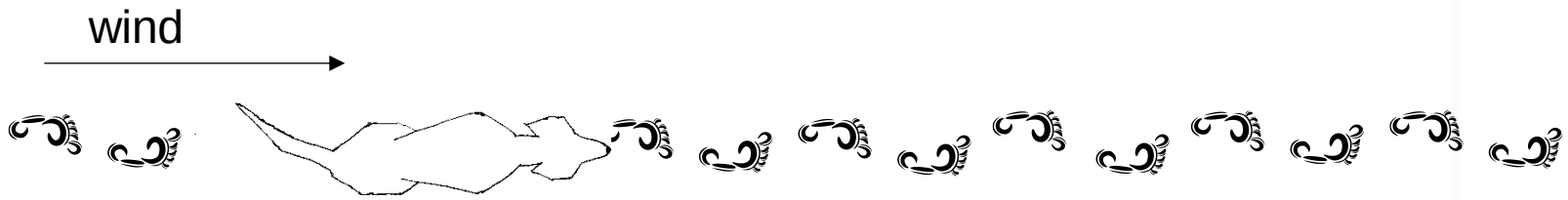
- How to use the line
  - By learning the dog tracking on hard surface use short line
  - Track in the centre of the track.
  - Loosing the track, how to help the dog.
  - Changes in surface (asphalt, gravel, grass…)
- Different behaviour based on breed.
- Frustration and passivity
- Dog handles behaviour
  - Shut up
  - Planting seed

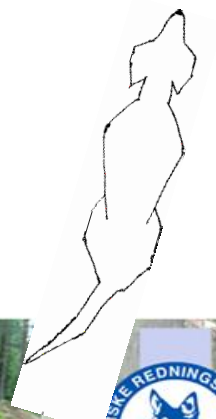
We must first learn the dog what we expect of his tracking. before we can trust him in doing what we are expecting!

Challenges

the OTHER COAST
BANK
HAH! BUTCH HAS PICKED UP HIS TRAIL. HE'LL BE IN HANDCUFFS IN NO TIME.
HEY, THIS SMELLS LIKE TEX, THE GUY WHO ALWAYS GIVES ME A DOG BISCUIT EVERY TIME HE SEES ME.
IF I TRACK HIM DOWN AND HE'S ARRESTED, I WON'T GET ANY MORE DOG BISCUITS.
©2015 Hairy Dog Productions, Inc.
RAESIDE 8-02
raesidecartoon.com
BUT I HAVE A JOB TO DO, PUTTING BANK ROBBERS BEHIND BARS.
THAT'S TOO BAD YOU LOST HIM. I WAS SURE YOU WERE HOT ON HIS TRAIL.

Spontaneous tracks

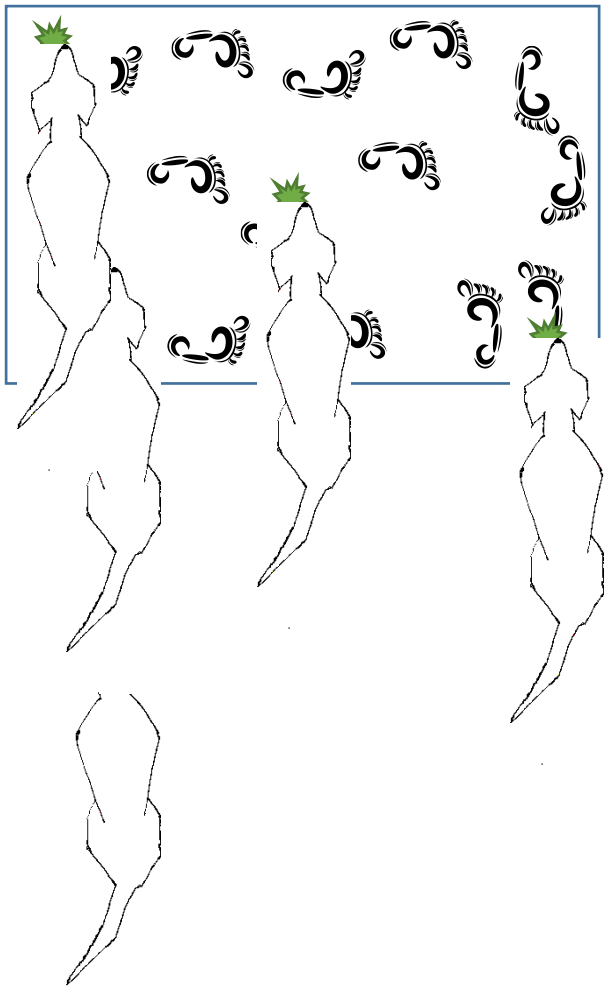




“The window”

- “The window” is a square approx.. 1,5m x 1,5m, this gives a limited area where we can have control on the learning.
- “The window” is used to give the dog expectations to the hard surface
- Another function on «the window» is that it helps us to learn the dog that the track starts «exactly» here.
- This technique are also used on “blowholes” in avalanche training.

«The Window»



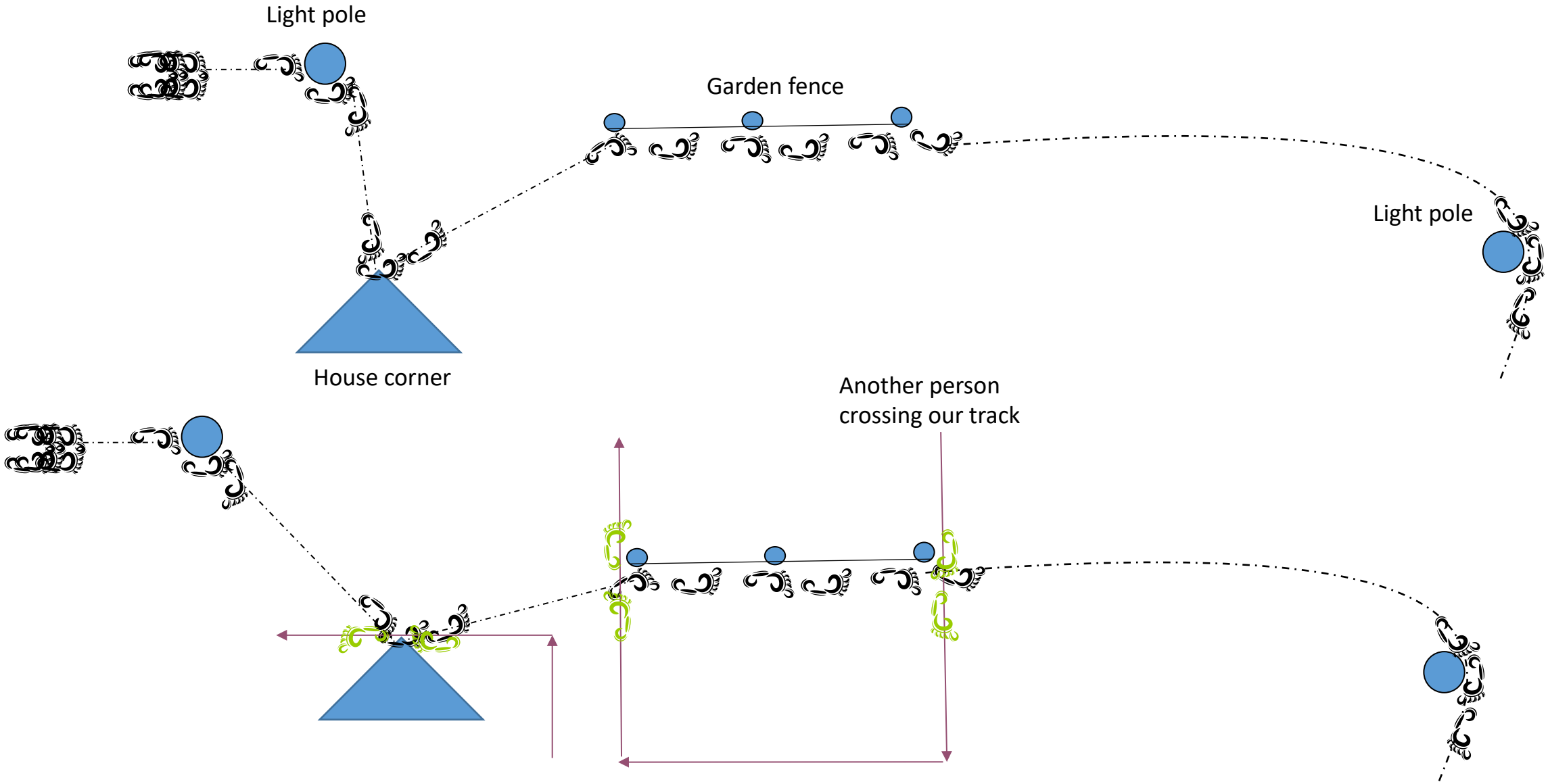
Wind

The wind in the back

«Scent pit»

vind

Tip


Light pole
Garden fence
Light pole
House corner
Another person
crossing our track

WE KNOW
WHERE YOU'VE BEEN

Lesson 2, tactical lesson for the dog handler

- Know your assets and limitations.
- Gather information about the task
  - Can we pick out the start of the track….
- Evaluate the task before you start
  - Environment, surface…….

Starting point

- This is essential for tracking on hard surface in trafficked areas
- Where is the starting point?
- What can be used as starting point?
- How to present the starting point to the dog?
- This lesson teach the dog handler to team up with his dog and give the dog the best assumptions to succeed.

Car

A lesson about how to get in or out of a car

Cut from a gangster movie

Car

CARSCOOP.BLOGSPOT.COM

NORSKE REDNINGSHUNDER

Norske Redningshunder
Norwegian Search and Rescue Dogs

Other starting point

How good is a good tracking dog team?

A tracking dog-team consist of a dog and a dog-handler!

A good dog-handler with an unexperienced dog will probably do better than a fantastic tracking dog with a “ordinary” dog-handler

Lesson 3, Introduction to ID

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Norwegian Search and Rescue Dogs

Definitions in «our world»

- ID stands for identification, the dog should be able to match the sent from two different objects.
- Smeller is a known object from a person giving the dog the scent from this person
- ID-track is that the dog will be presented a smeller and by this pick ut the track from this person between other tracks
- Learning the dog to match ID’s doesn't mean that he is able to ID-track

Learning comparing ID

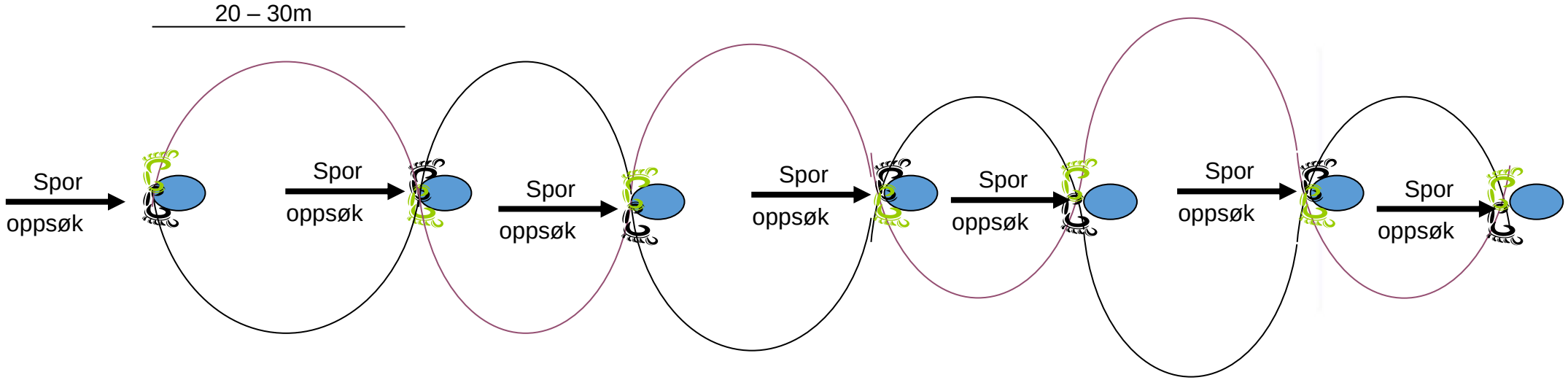
Norske Redningshunder

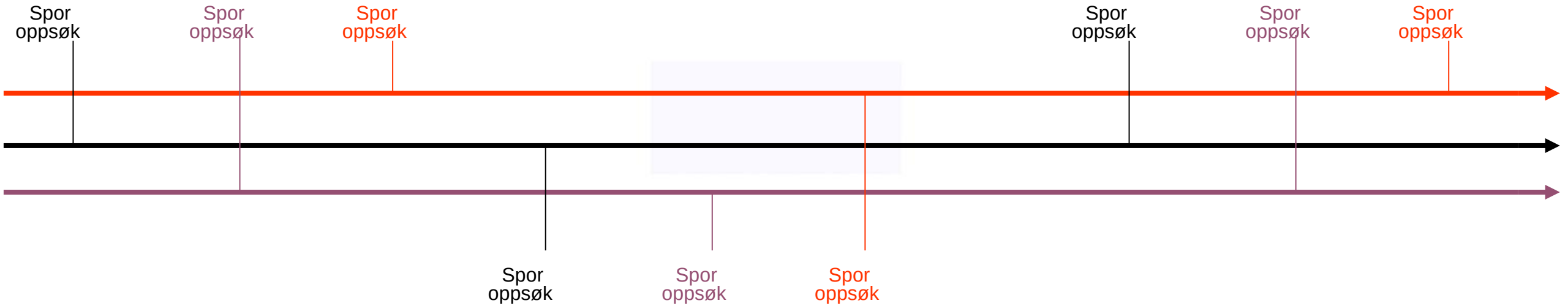
Norwegian Search and Rescue Dogs

Smeller

asics

Different ways to train / test ID-track"





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To be 100% successful training up a good tracking dog these are crucial points

The dog handlers knowledge about how to teach the dog tracking.

The dog handlers ability to find the right reward for his dog.

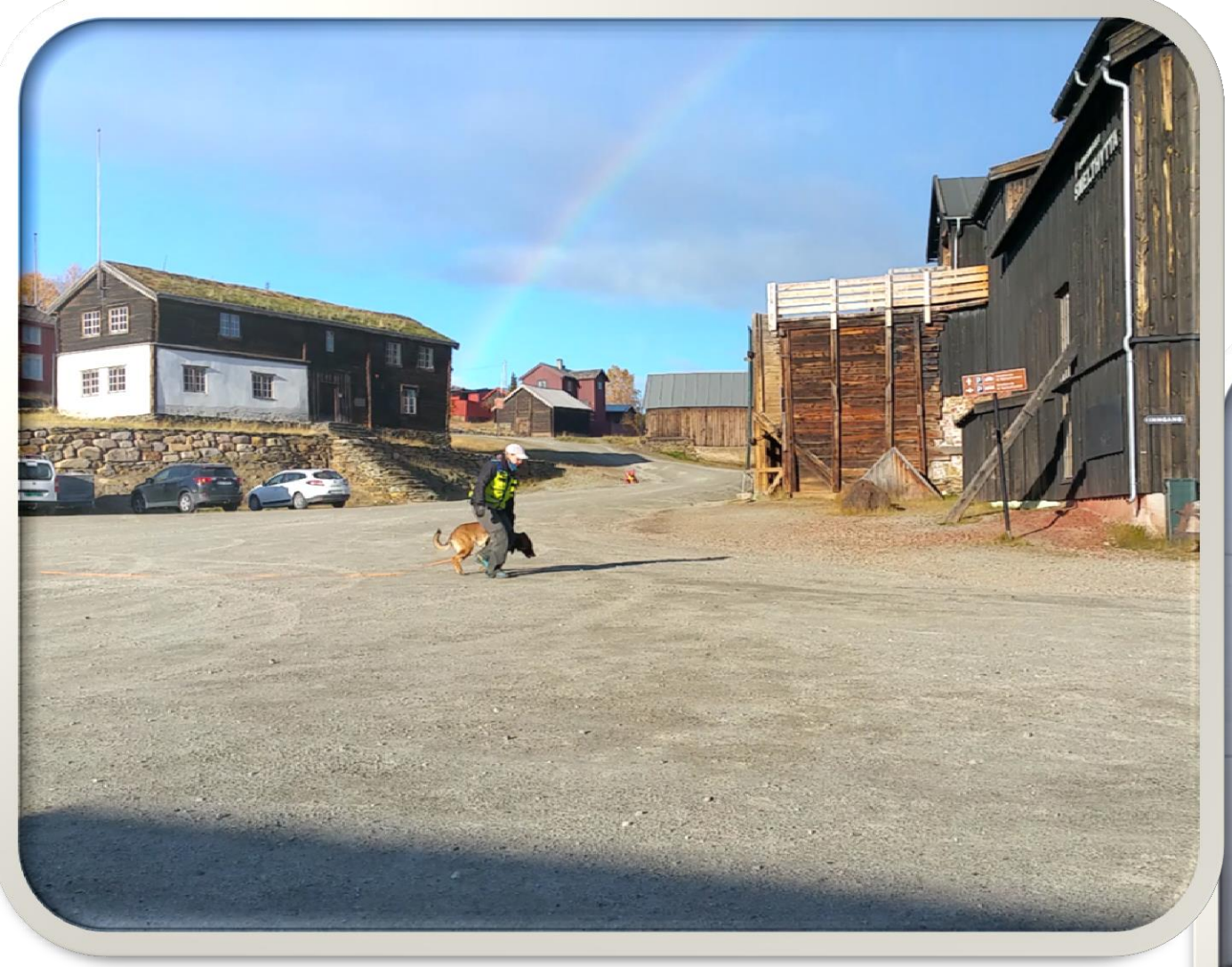
The dog handlers ability to reward precise in the right microsecond.

The dog handlers ability to give the dog the right prerequisites.

The dog handlers ability to avoid blaming the weather, wind, sheep's, bitches with maturities…etc.

Of all excuses heard there is only one good excuse that is acceptable.

I HAVEN'T EXERCISED ENOUGH!



Anne-Kathrine & Trøst

Knut & Anakin

Thank you!

Tracking

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