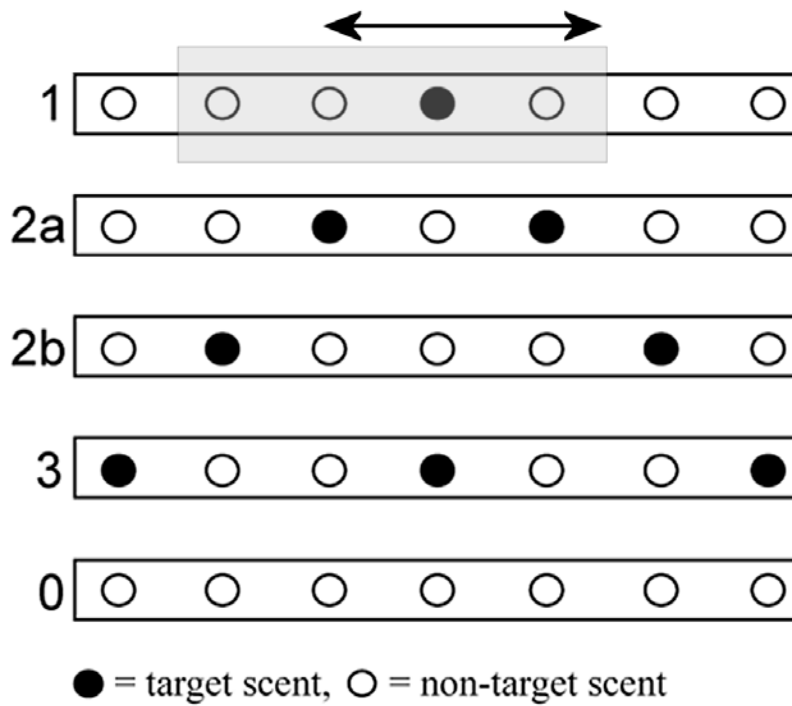
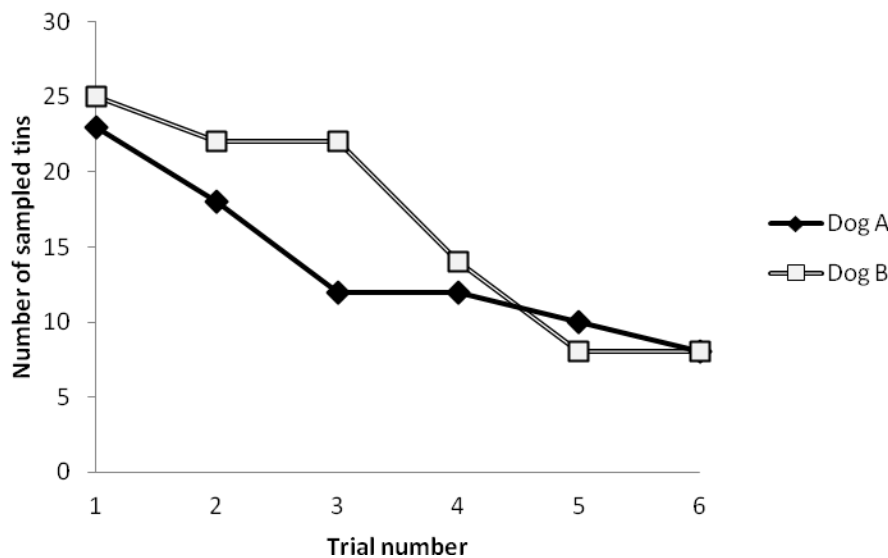


A**Sample setup: 0 (no target scent)****B****ESM_2 Fig. Training platform stimuli layout and decline in response to no target scent.**

A) Set of samples held in the 7 tins of the moveable tray of the training platform. The semi-transparent rectangle (▨) show one example of the possible samples of 4 tins simultaneously exposed to the dog at any one time. In the presentation and learning phase, a set of samples consisted of one target sample and six non target samples (1). In the discrimination phase a set of samples consisted of four to six non-target samples as distraction odours and target samples ranged from one to three different at the same time (2a, 2b, 3). Finally, the dogs were trained to discover when none of the tins contained a target odour (0). **B)** Dog sampling rate when confronted with no target scent present at different training sessions (spread among trials with target odours). After 4 -5 training trials the dogs discovered quickly when there were no target scent to be found.