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*Can Carnations Smell Like Dead People? Ask a Trained K9*

The main purpose of this experiment was to determine if carnations are capable of transporting water that has been infused with human scent. The initial project was designed to use a trained search and rescue dog to determine if the scent would travel from water to the plant. The carnation capability of transporting substances through the xylem tubes was determined by letting the flowers soak in the test solution for a period of time. Following this, the plants were placed in scent tubes, the tubes were hidden, and the dogs attempted to ascertain their location. This experiment used *Dianthus caryophyllus*, simple carnations, *canis lupus familiaris*, trained K-9 Search and Rescue dogs, specifically German Shepherd dogs. Scent samples were gauze pads that were soaked in water and then placed in direct contact with soil recovered from beneath a cadaver. Blood samples were assessed by placing the blood in an aqueous solution that held the stem of a fresh cut *Dianthus caryophyllus*. The results were determined by counting the hits and misses that the K-9 dogs made on the scent tubes containing the flowers. Search dogs are professionally trained to locate only items that had human scent on them. The contributions of this project are that 66% of the flowers soaked in human scent for a 48 hour period were located by the dogs. Secondly, those that were exposed for one week were located 50% of the time. The benefits of understanding the potential for scent location by German Shepherd dogs could increase effectiveness of the dogs’ success in locating lost individuals.