



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM**

Coursing Ability Test and Fast CAT

Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants

The AKC supports each club's informed decision to reschedule, postpone or cancel their events, as well as supporting clubs ready to hold events in locations that are open and permit gatherings. As events resume across the country, people need to feel safe while enjoying their dog activities. The AKC urges clubs to take appropriate precautions for the benefit of their participants. Events need to be held in a manner that emphasizes the safety of participants and event officials over efficiency.

The following is a list of suggested best practices that may be helpful when planning or attending an event. Event locations, facilities and dates will differ. With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the clubs to determine the guidelines that best fit their event. In order to inform participants, specific guidelines established by the club should be published in the premium, club website and posted on signage/flyers at their event.

General Practices

1. Clubs, officials and participants are required to follow state and local guidelines that apply to the area where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with current guidelines. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Clubs should provide masks if desired for officials, judges and volunteers.
4. Consider wearing disposable or washable gloves.
5. Have plenty of hand sanitizers placed for people to use.
6. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at bathroom facilities for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch).
7. If you utilize portable toilets, please ask for a hand washing station to be delivered as well.
8. Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
9. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility.
10. Avoid common use pens/pencils – bring your own.
11. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, stopwatches, lure machines and button, timing poles, timing console etc.)

12. Meals - Avoid or stagger group lunches/dinners if possible. It is recommended that clubs supply boxed lunches for judges and volunteers. Hospitality areas should avoid community items such as salt and pepper shakers, condiments, creamers, etc. Participants should consider bringing their own lunch/drinks.
13. Parking areas – Park with sufficient distance between vehicles if possible.

Event Practices

1. Scheduling – Consider scheduling participants in blocks in order to reduce crowds.
 - Use SignUp Genius (free downloadable app) or another online scheduling application if possible or the event secretary assigns dogs to a time block. Possible 20 minute blocks with 10 dogs per block.
 - Set aside times for day-of-event entries – assign day-of-event participants a time and number.
2. Ask participants to wait by their vehicles until immediately prior to their block time.
 - Use Remind (free downloadable app) or another online reminder application to inform participants when their block is to line up.
 - Participants provide cell phone numbers for the event secretary to call or text.
 - Use a bull horn or PA system to inform participants when their block is to line up.
3. Roll call and inspection committee functions can be performed in the parking areas one dog at a time.
 - Owners of females swipe their own dogs and show the inspection committee the tissue.
 - Wicket measuring can be done in the parking area. Inspection committee members performing the wicketing should wear masks and gloves.
 - Wickets should be wiped down between dogs.
4. In order to minimize the gathering of people, clubs should consider holding concurrent events rather than consecutive events.
5. Safe handling of paperwork and payment for day-of-event entries.
 - Go cashless as much as possible – encourage use of PayPal, Google Pay or EWallet.
 - Cash for day-of-event entries – inform participants they should have correct change.
 - Individuals handling paperwork and entry fees should wear gloves.
6. Separate participants when lining up to run - place cones or paint lines at intervals in the area that dogs line up to run. Move up as the dogs are run.
7. Huntmaster, Lure Operator, Paddock Master and, if running a CAT event, the Judge, should maintain a minimum of 6 foot distance from each other and participants.
8. Trial Secretary should wear gloves to handle paperwork.
9. Consider having someone wearing gloves handing out ribbons or rosettes. No self-serve boxes.
10. Have a separate table at least 6 feet from trial secretary table for day-of-event entries, ribbon distribution and questions.

Fast CAT Specific

11. Designate one person in the release area and one person in the catch area to open and shut the gate with gloves. If this can't be done, have paper towel or tissues for the handler to use when opening and closing gates and a trash can nearby for disposal of tissues.
12. If you are a catcher or releaser, consider using gloves when handling dogs and leashes.
13. Timer table – only the person timing is allowed in this area. Put a drop basket for run tickets at least 6' away (if you use run tickets). Timer should handle all paperwork with gloves.

Policies that Have Been Temporarily Suspended

1. Event Application Late Fees – Event application late fees are waived through the end of October. This provide clubs more flexibility in planning or rescheduling their events.
2. For events cancelled in 2020, AKC will apply Event Application fees to the club's next event of the same type.

Participants are expected to follow state, local government, facility and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event.

CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

These Suggested Best Practices may be periodically updated. Please check the AKC Coursing Ability Test (www.akc.org/sports/coursing/coursing-ability-test/) or the Fast CAT (www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/) website for the most up-to-date version.

For questions or additional suggestions, please contact the Performance Events Department at performanceevents@akc.org.

Stay Safe – Enjoy Your Dogs