



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Lure Coursing

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 respective 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, etc.)
12. Meals – Avoid or stagger group lunches/diners 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. Lure Operators and Field Committee maintaining equipment should consider wearing facial coverings and gloves.
2. Safe handling of paperwork and payment for day-of-event entries.
 - Cash for day-of-event entries – inform participants they should have correct change.
 - Individual handling paperwork and entry fees should wear gloves.
3. Roll call and inspection committee functions can be performed in the parking area one dog at a time. All members of such field committees should consider wearing facial coverings and gloves.
 - Owners of females swipe their own dogs and show the inspection committee the tissue.
 - Wicket measuring can be done in the parking area. Other participants should avoid gathering around during the wicketing process.
 - Wickets should be wiped down between dogs.
4. Ask participants to wait by their vehicles until immediately prior to their running time.
 - Use a bull horn or PA system to inform participants when they should prepare to run.
 - Possibly use Remind (free app) to inform participants they should prepare to run.
5. Starting line – Consider having dogs start a minimum of 6 feet apart. Ask handlers to wear facial coverings when releasing their hounds.
6. The lures should be attached to the line at least 6 feet apart in order to reduce congestion at pickup.
7. If you are a catcher or releaser, consider using gloves and facial coverings when handling dogs and leashes.
8. Hunt Master should wear mask and gloves and to the extent feasible, be a minimum of 6 feet from handlers and dogs.
9. Trial Secretary should wear gloves to handle paperwork.
10. Consider having someone wearing gloves handing out ribbons or rosettes. No self-serve boxes.
11. Have a separate table at least 6 feet from trial secretary table for day of event entries, ribbon distribution and questions.

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 Lure Coursing (www.akc.org/sports/coursing/lure-coursing/) 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