



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

July 2018

To: **All Clubs Licensed to host FAST CAT® events.**

Subject: **10 Regulations Approved for FAST CAT® & New Best Practices Guide**

This communication is to inform your club of recent changes to the *Regulations for FAST CAT®* and the publishing of a new resource called, *Best Practices Guide to AKC FAST CAT®*.

There are 10 regulations that have been approved to provide greater flexibility, clarification and safety to the sport. All are effective **September 1, 2018** except one which requires clubs to have a backup lure machine available at their event by the effective date of ***January 1, 2019**.

The exact wording of these changes will appear in the next printing of the regulation book as follows with the underlining denoting the new language:

Section 9. HOSTING FAST CAT EVENTS.

(third sentence). If a club holds two events on the same day, they have the option to hold them concurrently or consecutively. Clubs should specify in their premium list which way they intend to run their two events. When held concurrently, a dog entered in both tests would be allowed to complete both runs in succession (back to back) without having to wait for one event to finish before the next can begin. A Fast CAT event must start and conclude on the same day.

Section 10. COURSE/EQUIPMENT.

B. The Start: Dogs may start up to 10 feet behind the starting line. Clubs may define this space by having a start box that is 10 feet long. A dog's front paws must be inside the start box upon release.

D. Timing Devices: Timing Devices: The time to complete the 100-yard dash is recorded to the nearest 1/100th of a second (e.g. 9.11). The club may use stopwatches or break-the-beam equipment to obtain the time. Clubs must specify in their premium list which timing method is to be used.

E. Lure Equipment: Clubs may use either a drag or continuous loop system. If a continuous loop system is used the "return" string must be set outside of the running course. The lure operator and the lure equipment shall be safely positioned in a manner that does not interfere with the retrieval of the dog at the end of the course. Clubs are required to be equipped with a backup lure machine should one fail and become inoperable during an event. (*Effective: January 1, 2019)

F. Lure: A white plastic bag or a squawker may be used for the lure. Clubs using a squawker instead of a plastic bag should use caution as it may prematurely break the beam of an automatic timer. This can depend on variables such as wind and smoothness of the terrain. If an inaccurate time were to occur, the club must take steps to correct it.

G. Course/Fencing: The entire course must be essentially flat and must be straight from beginning to end, including the start box and run out. The course can only be measured using a tape measure and no type of measuring wheel. The course must be free of any potential hazards. Pulleys are prohibited from placement inside the course. The club should consider fencing the course area, however this is up to the decision of the club given the specifics of the setting. The premium should state if the location of the event is enclosed with fencing.

Section 11. HUNTMASTER.

(last sentence) The minimum age of the huntmaster must be 16 years old.

Section 13. COLLARS/PARAPHERNALIA.

(last sentence) Head halters, such as the Gentle Leader or Halti, may be used on the grounds but must not be worn while running the course.

Section 14. HANDLERS.

Handlers are not permitted to run with a dog during an official run but must remain either at the start or finish area of the course. Handlers are not to allow dogs to be enticed through the course with anything other than the lure during its official run.

Section 15. SUBMITTAL OF RESULTS.

(last sentence) Clubs may not submit results for runs other than those occurring during an official licensed FAST CAT® event.

There is a new resource available called, [Best Practices Guide to AKC FAST CAT®](#) which can be found on the website's [homepage for FAST CAT®](#). This offers guidance on conducting and participating in this type of event. In addition, there is a helpful [Continuous Loop Course Diagram](#) available online to assist clubs configure their course.

This update has been sent to all Presidents and Secretaries of clubs licensed to hold FAST CAT®. Please remember to keep your email address current so you can receive announcements. If you need to check or update your email address or if you have any questions or comments, please send an email to: lurecoursing@akc.org