

CHAPTER XVI

Fast CAT Regulations

Chapter 16 of the AKC Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials
(As of April 2016)

Section 1. Purpose/Description. The purpose of the AKC Fast CAT event is to provide all dogs and their owners an enjoyable, healthy activity in which they can participate. Dogs run singularly. The dog's time to complete the 100 yard dash is converted into MPH. Dogs earn points based on their handicapped speed. Titles are awarded when a dog has accumulated a given number of points.

Section 2. Regulations. All applicable administrative regulations governing Lure Coursing Tests shall apply to Fast CAT events unless specifically addressed in this chapter.

Section 3. Eligibility to Enter. Fast CAT events are open to all dogs at least 12 months of age that are individually registered with the AKC, recorded in the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) program, individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration, dogs granted a Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) number, dogs with AKC Limited or Conditional Registration, or dogs enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program. Dogs with breed disqualifications and monorchid/cryptorchid dogs are eligible to participate. Females in season may not enter. A dog may enter only once per event. (An event is defined by an event number.)

Section 4. Entering an Event. All participants must fill out an entry form as provided in the club's premium list. A club may accept entries prior to the event and/or a club may accept day-of-event entries. The specifics of how entries will be accepted must be explained in the premium. If a Fast CAT event is held in conjunction with a Lure Coursing event or Coursing Ability Test, the club may use the same premium however both event numbers must appear on the entry form.

A club may limit the number of entries it will accept in a Fast CAT event. Additional "stand-by" entries above the limit may be taken at the discretion of the event committee and these dogs will be allowed to run if time permits. Owners of stand-by dogs must be informed that they are on the stand-by list and may choose not to participate.

Section 5. Earning Points.

- A. The dog's time to complete the 100 yard dash is converted into MPHs. Please see table in Section 17.
- B. A handicap system is applied to a dog's MPH to determine the number of points earned. The handicap system is based on the height of the dog at its withers:
 - 18" or greater = handicap is 1.0.
 - 12" up to less than 18" = handicap is 1.5.
 - Below 12" = handicap is 2.0.
- C. Points = MPH multiplied by the dog's handicap

Section 6. Titles. Titles are earned by accumulating points. The following titles will be awarded: BCAT = 150 points; DCAT = 500 points; FCAT = 1,000 points; and FCAT followed by a number (e.g. FCAT2) for every additional 500 points. These suffix titles will appear on a dog's pedigree, with a higher level title superseding a lower level title.

Section 7. Top 20 Dogs by Breed by Year. National rankings showing the top 20 fastest times in MPH by breed for a calendar year will be maintained on the Fast CAT website. These [rankings](#) will be automatically updated as results are processed.

Section 8. Ribbons and Awards. A club holding a Fast CAT event may offer a participation ribbon or award to each dog that completes the 100 yard dash. The ribbon, if offered, shall be at least two inches wide and eight inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words “Fast CAT”, and the name of the test-giving club. Ribbons shall be light blue in color.

Section 9. Hosting Fast CAT Events. Any club licensed to hold AKC Lure Coursing Trials or Coursing Ability Tests are automatically licensed to hold Fast CAT events. A club is limited to twelve Fast CAT events per year. A club may not hold more than two Fast CAT events on the same day. A Fast CAT event must start and conclude on the same day. A club may limit the number of entries it will accept. Additional “stand-by” entries above the limit may be taken at the discretion of the event committee and these dogs will be allowed to run if time permits. Owners of stand-by dogs must be informed that they are on the stand-by list and may choose not to participate.

All other AKC member or licensed clubs that have the interest and resources within the club may apply to the Performance Events Department to become licensed to hold Fast CAT events provided they have the experience, equipment and location to hold a safe event. The Performance Events Department will also consider special requests to hold Fast CAT events on unique occasions. Any such requests should be sent to: PerformanceEvents@akc.org.

Fast CAT events can be either a stand-alone event or may be held in conjunction with other AKC events. In all cases the Fast CAT must be applied for as a separate event with its own event number.

Section 10. Course/Equipment.

- A. **Safety:** Safety is of utmost importance. It is the responsibility of the event committee to insure the safety of the course, the equipment and the conduct of those involved with the event. It is recommended that the event committee run a test dog prior to the start of the event to ensure that the equipment functions properly and all personnel understand their jobs. Prior to moving the lure to position it for the start, the lure operator shall announce “hold your dogs” in order to caution owners.
- B. **The Start:** Dogs may start up to 10 feet behind the starting line.
- C. **The Finish:** The club must provide enough room for a safe run-out area. It is suggested this be a minimum of 30 yards, however this is up to the decision of the club given the specifics of the setting. The club should consider fencing the end of the course in order to help collect the dogs. It is recommended that an owner or someone familiar with the dog stand at the finish in order to catch the dog once the course has been completed.
- D. **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. If stopwatches are used, there shall be two timers positioned at the finish line. An individual at the start line shall signal with an arm drop the moment the nose of the dog crosses the start line. The timers shall start their stopwatches at the bottom of the arm drop. The timers shall stop their watches when the nose of the dog crosses the finish line. The times from the two stopwatches shall be averaged to determine the recorded time.
- 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.

- F. Lure: A white plastic bag or a squawker may be used for the lure.
- G. Course/Fencing: The course must be essentially flat. 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. Because Fast CAT is a timed event, there is no judge. The huntmaster has control of the course. The huntmaster's responsibilities are detailed in the Lure Coursing Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 5. In summary, the huntmaster is in charge of all dogs and handlers on the field, shall ensure handlers understand safe release and retrieval procedures, shall ensure the lure is properly positioned, shall ensure the lure operator, timers and starting line signal person are ready, shall signal the lure operator to start the lure and shall give the verbal signal "tallyho" to release the dog.

Section 12. Inspection Committee. An inspection committee consisting of at least two persons who are members of the field committee shall inspect each entry for lameness, fitness to compete and females in season. Inspection shall take place prior to any form of wrapping being applied to the dog. In the opinion of the inspection committee, any entry found to be lame, unfit to compete or a female in season shall not be allowed to enter and entry fees shall be refunded. If necessary, the inspection committee is responsible for measuring dogs to determine their height at the withers.

Section 13. Collars/Paraphernalia. Dogs may wear any type of collar except choker collars, a collar with prongs or an electronic training collar. The collar should be snug to minimize the chances of catching on something during the run. Clubs may, at their option, require that tags hanging from the collar be taped up. Owners may have their dog wear a muzzle if they desire. Owners may use clips or rubber bands to hold the dog's hair. The owner assumes responsibility for the safety of the dog with regard to the dog's collar and paraphernalia on the dog.

Section 14. Making Event Application.

- A. Licensed clubs may apply for Fast CAT events by using the on-line event management feature located on the AKC website or by downloading the [Fast CAT Application](#). Paper or emailed event applications will be accepted. Applications should be submitted three months prior to the event. Approval correspondence will all be done via e-mail. Event secretaries will need to provide an e-mail address on the event application form. Approved events can be found on the AKC website at "[Events and Awards Search](#)."
- B. Event kits: No event kits will be mailed to clubs. All necessary forms are downloadable from the AKC [downloadable forms webpage](#). Approval correspondence will be done via e-mail. Event secretaries will need to provide an e-mail address on the event application form. Event forms/booklets that are not easily downloadable can be requested by e-mail to: PerformanceEvents@akc.org. In many cases clubs will have these forms/booklets as a result of holding other AKC events.

Section 15. Submittal of Results. Clubs must mail the event Secretary Report and (name of results form once finalized) to the Performance Events Department within 7 days from the completion of the event. All necessary forms for submitting results are downloadable from the AKC website.

Section 16. Posting of Results. Fast CAT event results will be posted on the AKC website and displayed in the [Fast CAT – Top 20 Rankings](#).

Section 17. 100 Yard Dash time Converted to Miles per Hour.

Seconds to Complete

100 Yd Course	Miles per Hour
Less than 5.00	41
5.00 – 5.50	37
5.51 – 6.00	34
6.01 – 6.50	32
6.51 – 7.00	29
7.01 – 7.50	27
7.51 – 8.00	26
8.01 – 8.50	24
8.51 – 9.00	23
9.01 – 9.50	22
9.51 – 10.00	21
10.01 – 10.50	20
10.51 – 11.00	19
11.01 – 11.50	18
11.51 – 12.00	17
12.01 – 13.00	16
13.01 – 14.00	15
14.01 – 15.00	14
15.01 – 16.00	13
16.01 – 17.50	12
17.51 – 19.50	11
19.51 – 21.50	10
21.51 – 24.00	9
24.01 – 27.00	8
27.01 – 31.50	7
31.51 – 37.50	6
37.51 – 45.50	5
45.51 – 58.50	4

Points of Reference

A fast Greyhound = 40 mph

A fast Whippet = 35 mph

Speed of a squirrel = 12 mph

Speed of a chicken = 9 mph

58.51 – 60.00	3
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A person's leisurely walk = 3 mph