

## **CHAPTER XV**

### **COURSING ABILITY TEST REGULATIONS**

**Section 1. Purpose.** The purpose of the AKC Coursing Ability Test is to provide all dogs and their owners an enjoyable, healthy activity in which they can participate. Based on the sport of lure coursing, Coursing Ability Tests will serve as an introduction to the sport for all eligible dog owners. Dogs run singularly and are required to complete their course with enthusiasm and without interruption within a maximum amount of time. The Coursing Ability Test is a pass – fail event.

**Section 2.** All applicable administrative regulations governing Lure Coursing Tests shall apply to Coursing Ability Tests unless specifically addressed in this chapter.

**Section 3. Eligibility to Enter.** Coursing Ability Tests 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. Clubs Eligible to Hold Coursing Ability Tests.** Any club licensed to hold AKC Lure Coursing events is automatically licensed to hold a Coursing Ability Test. All-breed and group clubs that are currently licensed to hold conformation, agility or obedience events and have the interest and resources within the club may apply to the Performance Events Department to become licensed to hold Coursing Ability Tests. The Performance Events Department will also consider special requests to hold Coursing Ability Tests on unique occasions. The Department may be contacted at [PerformanceEvents@akc.org](mailto:PerformanceEvents@akc.org).

**Section 5. 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.

**Section 6. Making Event Application.** Licensed clubs may make application to the American Kennel Club to hold an event on a designated form downloadable from the AKC website at [http://classic.akc.org/pdfs/events/lure\\_coursing/Coursing\\_Ability\\_Application.pdf](http://classic.akc.org/pdfs/events/lure_coursing/Coursing_Ability_Application.pdf). Paper or e-mail applications will be accepted. No on-line event application process will be available. Applications should be made three months prior to the event. Approval and close out correspondence would all be done via e-mail.

Events may be either stand-alone tests or may be held at the conclusion of a club's Lure Coursing event. In either case the Coursing Ability Test must be applied for as a separate event. If a club is concerned that entries may be more than can be accommodated, the club may state a numeric limit in the premium. The application fee shown on the form must accompany the application. A club may hold up to eight Coursing Ability Tests per calendar year. A club may hold no more than two Coursing Ability Tests on the same day. A test (as identified by an event number) must start and conclude on the same day.

If a Coursing Ability Test is held at the conclusion of a Lure Coursing event, the club may use the same premium however both event numbers must appear on the entry form.

A list of approved upcoming events can be found at:

[http://classic.akc.org/pdfs/events/coursing\\_ability\\_test/CAT\\_Upcoming\\_Events.pdf](http://classic.akc.org/pdfs/events/coursing_ability_test/CAT_Upcoming_Events.pdf).

**Section 7. Eligibility to Judge.** All AKC approved Lure Coursing event judges are approved to judge a Coursing Ability Test.

**Section 8. Course Design.** The course shall be designed with safety for non-sighthound breeds as a primary consideration. There shall be no turns more acute than 90 degrees. The total length of the course shall be no less than 600 yards and should be as close to 600 yards as is possible. The lure will consist of plastic strips. Depending on the size and type of dog, the dog will run either the full course or a 300 yard course. The 300 yard distance shall be clearly marked. Safety is of utmost importance. Many of the dogs running the Coursing Ability Test will not possess the agility of a sight hound and this must be a consideration in the design of a course.

**Section 9. Distance and Maximum Time.** Dogs run singularly.

**300 Yard Course.** This distance is for dogs shorter than 12 inches at the withers and / or brachycephalic (“flat-faced”) dogs. A dog must complete this course in less than 1 ½ minutes.

**600 Yard Course.** This distance is used for all dogs that do not run the 300 yard course. A dog must complete this course in less than 2 minutes.

If there is a question which course a dog should run, the judge will decide.

The premium should state the distance for both courses and the eligibility of dogs for each course.

**Section 10. Collars/Paraphernalia.** Dogs may wear any collar except a choker collar, a collar with prongs or an electronic training collar. The collar should be snug to minimize the chances of getting hung up on something during the run. Owners should be aware that there is a chance that tags hanging from the collar could become entangled on something during the run. 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 11. Passing Performance.** The Coursing Ability Test is a pass – fail event. In order to pass, the dog must complete the course with enthusiasm and without interruption within the maximum amount of time for the course length. The judge keeps the official time and decides the merits of the dog’s performance.

**Section 12. Ribbons or Rosettes.** A club holding Coursing Ability Test shall offer a ribbon or rosette to each dog that receives a qualification toward a Coursing Ability title. Each ribbon or rosette 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 “Coursing Ability Test Qualifying”, and the name of the test-giving club. Ribbons or rosettes shall be orange in color.

**Section 13. Titles.** Three titles will be awarded for dogs that pass the Coursing Ability Test the required number of times. These are suffix titles that will appear on a dog’s pedigree with a higher level title superseding a lower level title.

Coursing Ability (CA)– Awarded to a dog that passes the Coursing Ability Test three times under at least two different judges.

Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA)- Dog passes the Coursing Ability Test a total of ten times. (CA+7 additional passes)  
Coursing Ability Excellent (CAX)- Dog passes the Coursing Ability Test a total of 25 times.  
Coursing Ability Excellent 2 (CAX2)- Dog passes the Coursing Ability Test a total of 50 times.  
A higher numbered title will be awarded for every additional twenty five passes.

**Section 14. Submission of Results.** All necessary forms for recording results will be downloadable from the AKC website. (Secretary's Report = <http://classic.akc.org/pdfs/JFSEC2.pdf>; Coursing Ability Test Results = [http://classic.akc.org/pdfs/events/lure\\_coursing/Coursing\\_Ability\\_Test\\_Results.pdf](http://classic.akc.org/pdfs/events/lure_coursing/Coursing_Ability_Test_Results.pdf) ) Event forms/booklets that are not easily downloadable can be requested by e-mail to the PE Department (Coursing@akc.org). In many cases clubs will have these forms/booklets as a result of holding lure coursing events. The applicable recording fee shown on the Event Secretaries Report must be submitted at the time results are mailed to the Performance Events Department.

**Section 15. Posting of Results.** Results can be found at:  
[http://classic.akc.org/events/coursing\\_ability\\_tests/results.cfm](http://classic.akc.org/events/coursing_ability_tests/results.cfm).