



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

## Performance Events Department

October 2012

### Coursing Ability Test

The Coursing Ability Test (CAT) is an introductory event fashioned after the sport lure coursing. It will provide a fun and healthy activity attractive to many dog owners. The following is a summary of how the event is structured:

1. Non-competitive pass / fail event fashioned after the sport of lure coursing.
2. Dogs run singularly.
3. Open to all dogs at least 12 months of age that are individually registered with the AKC, recorded in the FSS program, dogs with PAL numbers or dogs enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program. Females in season may not enter. A dog may enter only once per event. (An event is defined by an event number.)
4. Course distance / course design:
  - Dogs under 12" at the withers and/or brachycephalic ("flat-faced") dogs = approx. 300 yards
  - Dogs over 12" at the withers that are not brachycephalic dogs = approximately 600 yards
  - If there is a question whether a dog should run 300 or 600 yards, the judge will decide.
  - 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.
  - Safety is of utmost importance. Since many of the dogs running will not be as agile as a sighthound, this must be a consideration in the design of the course.
5. Dogs may wear any type of collar except choker collars, a collar with prongs or an electronic training collar.
6. An inspection committee shall inspect each entry for lameness, fitness to compete and females in season.
7. Pass: The dog must complete the course with enthusiasm and without interruption within a stated maximum amount of time. Max time: 600 yards - 2 minutes; 300 yards – 1½ minutes. The maximum time is not meant to be difficult to achieve. It is meant to prevent a dog that "walks" the course from passing.
8. To earn a suffix title: Three passes = Coursing Ability (CA); Ten total passes = Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA); Twenty five total passes = Coursing Ability Excellent (CAX); fifty total passes = CAX2; a higher numbered title will be awarded for every additional twenty five passes.
9. All licensed Lure Coursing clubs will automatically be licensed to hold Coursing Ability Tests. Clubs will be limited to eight CATs per calendar year. A club may not hold more than two CATs on the same day. A test must start and conclude on the same day. An all-breed or group club licensed for conformation, obedience or agility may apply to the PE Department ([PerformanceEvents@akc.org](mailto:PerformanceEvents@akc.org)) to become licensed to hold CATs.
10. A Coursing Ability Test can be either a stand-alone test or an event with a limited number of entries that follows a LC event. The Coursing Ability Test must be applied for as a separate event with its own event number.
11. Judge eligibility: Any person approved to judge AKC Lure Coursing can judge a Coursing Ability Test.
12. Event applications: Paper or e-mail event applications will be accepted. Application forms will be downloadable from the AKC website. No on-line event application process will be available.
13. Event kits: No event kits would be mailed to clubs. All necessary forms would be downloadable from the AKC website. Approval and close out correspondence will be done via e-mail. Event forms/booklets that are not easily downloadable can be requested by e-mail to the PE Department. In many cases clubs will have these forms/booklets as a result of holding lure coursing events.
14. Submittal of results: Clubs must mail event secretary reports and results to the Performance Events Dept.

Complete Regulations governing CAT can be found on AKC's Coursing Ability Test website or Chapter 15 of the Regulations for Lure Coursing.