

Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and Fast CAT® Regulations

Amended to October 2022

Published by The American Kennel Club

NOTE: This rulebook contains the following insert:

*** Green Insert - Page 21 Effective January 1st, 2026**



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT

The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

Information regarding AKC CAT and Fast CAT events can be found on our website at <https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/>

Performance Events

The American Kennel Club
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27617-3390

Performance Events 919-816-3908
Fax..... 919-816-3905
EmailCATFastCAT@akc.org

Clubs are encouraged to submit results using the electronic templates for faster processing.

For Fast CAT E-Results Template visit:

<https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/e-results-template/>

For CAT E-Results Template visit:

<https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/coursing-ability-test/e-results-template/>

Assistance with Misconduct Complaints:

Compliance Department 919-816-3514
Emailglt@akc.org

Notice:

The *italicized* portions of these regulations are generally intended as explanations.

Unless otherwise specified, these regulations are applicable to both CAT and Fast CAT.

Revisions to the Regulations for Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and Fast CAT® Regulations

Effective January 1, 2026

This insert is issued as a supplement to the above-mentioned rulebook as approved by the AKC Board of Directors August 2025.

Replace the existing chapter and paragraph for this book as:

CHAPTER 2 Making Application to Hold a CAT or Fast CAT

SECTION 19. SUBMISSION OF RESULTS. The host club is responsible for the submission of results. The complete results which include a Secretary's Report, the official qualifier sheet(s) for each event marked with each qualified dog, certified to and signed by the Secretary and for a CAT event, it would also be signed by the Judge(s) along with all event service fees (**\$4.50** per dog entered) must be sent to The American Kennel Club so as to reach its office within seven (7) days after the close of the event. Penalty for noncompliance is twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars, and five (\$5.00) dollars for each day's delay beyond the deadline, and other such penalties as may be imposed by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. All recording fees shall be paid to The American Kennel Club within seven (7) days after the close of the event.

At every licensed and member club event held under these Regulations, an event service fee of **\$4.50** shall be required for every entry. The event service fee is payable to The American Kennel Club and is to help defray expenses involved in maintaining the records, and applies to all entries, regardless of whether or not they participate, unless the entry fee is refunded in whole.

FOREWARD

The purpose of the CAT and Fast CAT sports is to offer an outdoor coursing type activity that is fun and enjoyable for all dogs and owners.

The AKC CAT program began in 2011 and the Fast CAT program began in 2016.

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CHAPTER 1

General Regulations

Whenever the word “dog” is used in these Regulations it includes both sexes. Whenever the word CAT is used it stands for Coursing Ability Test. Whenever reference to judging or judges are made it refers only to Coursing Ability Tests not Fast CAT.

All applicable administrative regulations such as Chapters 1 and 2 governing CAT and Fast CAT shall apply to both sports unless specifically addressed in these regulations.

SECTION 1. PURPOSE OF THE CAT AND FAST CAT PROGRAMS. The American Kennel Club offers Coursing Ability Tests and Fast Coursing Ability Tests for any dog to experience the basic enjoyment and pursuit of chasing the lure whether on a simplistic lure course or straight course. Both of these coursing type events provide dogs and owners an enjoyable, healthy activity in which they can participate.

CAT AND FAST CAT ARE SPORTS, AND ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

CAT DEFINED: CAT is an outdoor pass/fail event open to all dogs. CAT is based on the fundamentals of the sport of Lure Coursing where two different sized courses, 300 yards or 600 yards are used depending on a dog’s height. Dogs run singly and are required to complete the course with enthusiasm and without interruption within a maximum amount of time. Sighthounds exposed to CAT may use their experience as an introduction to Lure Coursing tests and trials.

Both CAT and Fast CAT may be conducted by a club which is a member of The American Kennel Club or a club which is licensed by the American Kennel Club.

FAST CAT DEFINED: Fast CAT is an outdoor pass/fail test that consists of a 100-yard dash using a straight course or track. Dogs run singly and are required to reach the finish line. The dog’s time to complete the course is converted into MPH and then to points based on height by using a handicap.

Both CAT and Fast CAT may be conducted by a club which is a member of The American Kennel Club or a club which is licensed by the American Kennel Club.

SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS. This section applies to both CAT and 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. Spayed and neutered dogs are eligible to participate in CAT and Fast CAT. Dogs with breed disqualifications and monorchid/cryptorchid dogs are eligible to participate. Dogs that are physically challenged due to loss of limbs are eligible to enter and should be given the same consideration by the inspection committee as four-legged dogs. A dog that exhibits a state of well-being at the time of inspection, shows no signs of physical discomfort, and in the opinion of the inspection committee appears to physically have the potential to safely complete the course, is to be considered fit to participate. For safety purposes, any dog requiring an assistance apparatus, such as a wheeled cart will not be allowed to participate. Bitches in season may not participate. A dog may enter only once per event. (An event is defined by an event number.)

A dog that is individually registered with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may be entered in licensed or member CAT or Fast CAT events that are held no later than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member CAT or Fast CAT event in which the dog was entered, but only provided that the individual foreign registration number and the name of the country of birth are shown on the entry form, and provided further that the same name, which in the case of an imported dog must be the name on the foreign registration, is used for the dog each time.

An individually registered dog with a foreign or domestic registry organization whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration may be entered in licensed or member tests that are held not later than 30 days after the date of the first licensed or member test in which the dog was entered, unless the owner has received from the AKC an extension notice authorizing further entries of the dog with its foreign registration number. No such extension will be granted unless the owner can clearly demonstrate, in a letter addressed to the Performance Events Department of The AKC, that the delay in registration is due to circumstances for which he is not responsible. Such extension notice will be void upon registration of the dog or upon expiration of

the period for which the extension has been granted if that occurs earlier, but upon application further extensions may be granted.

SECTION 3. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES. No dog with a communicable disease shall be on the event grounds or premises. Exhibitors should follow their veterinarian's recommendations to ensure that their dogs are free of internal and external parasites, any communicable disease, and have appropriate vaccinations.

SECTION 4. RULES APPLYING TO REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE. The AKC's "Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline" and the "Guide for Event Committees Dealing with Misconduct" shall apply to CAT and Fast CAT events held under AKC Regulations. The power conferred to suspend a person from all privileges of The American Kennel Club applies only to Committees at licensed or member events. At a sanctioned event, the Committee collects evidence, holds a hearing, if warranted, and reports its findings and conclusions to The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 5. RISK. The owner or handler entering a dog in a CAT or Fast CAT event does so at their own risk. Owners and handlers of dogs entered agree to assume responsibility for any damage to facilities or persons, or dogs caused by him or her or by his or her dog(s). They also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and policies of The American Kennel Club and the CAT and Fast CAT Regulations.

CHAPTER 2

Making Application to Hold a CAT or Fast CAT

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD CAT AND FAST CAT. Any club licensed to hold Lure Coursing trials that has been holding lure coursing trials annually is automatically licensed to hold Coursing Ability Tests or Fast CATs. Clubs that are automatically licensed can submit their event application. For any existing AKC licensed or member club that has the interest, resources and knowledge within the club, they may apply to the Performance Events Department to become licensed to hold CAT or Fast CAT events.

The Club License Application for CAT or Fast CAT is available here: <https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/holding-an-event/>.

The Performance Events Department will also consider special requests to hold a Coursing Ability Test or Fast CAT on unique occasions. The department may be contacted at: CATFastCATclublicense@akc.org.

SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOST CLUB. AKC's approval to hold a CAT or Fast CAT event cannot be transferred. A service provider can be hired to assist the club but the club event chairperson and the event committee has the responsibility to manage the event in accordance with AKC Regulations and Policies.

If a club decides to hire a lure operating service provider, it is suggested the club enter into a contract that clarifies and documents the services that will be provided. The following functions must be performed by the AKC host club.

- A club officer or club event chairperson must submit the AKC event application and pay the event application fee.
- The host club is responsible for the information that appears in the premium list.
- The host club is responsible for determining the entry fee, the specific requirements regarding how entries will be accepted and under what conditions refunds will be provided.
- The event chairperson must be a club member and their name along with their city/state address must appear in the premium list.
- The host club must appoint an event committee with a minimum of five club members. The names of the entire event committee must appear in the premium and a minimum of three event committee members must be present at all times during the event.
- The host club is responsible for the selection of and contracting with the event facility, acting as the liaison with the facility, and obtaining any local permits required to hold the event and paying all fees.
- The host club is responsible for the timely submission of results.
- The host club is responsible for preparing and posting the Disaster and Emergency Plan for the event.
- The host club is responsible for contracting with vendors.
- The host club is responsible for entering into sponsorship agreements for the event/cluster.
- The host club is responsible for entering into an agreement to televise/broadcast the event.

SECTION 3. MAKING AN APPLICATION. A club that meets the requirements of The American Kennel Club and wishes to hold a CAT or Fast CAT event at which qualifying scores or points toward titles may be earned, must submit an event application to The American Kennel Club within 3 months of the event date along with the correct event application fee. Late applications may be subject to a fine. A club license application must be submitted and signed by a club officer or chairperson.

The Event Application can be found online by visiting <https://www.akc.org/downloadable-forms/#Applications> then go to “performance applications” then select the CAT/Fast CAT Event Application. Paper or emailed applications will be accepted but must be signed by a club officer or chairperson. The name of the lure operator service provider must be provided on the event application. Approval and close out correspondence is handled via email from the Performance Events Department. Approved events are published in the online events calendar found at: <https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search>.

An event application is used to apply for one test per day. A second test ran on the same day must be applied for as a separate event. A club licensed for both CAT and Fast CAT can hold no more than two CAT events on the same day and can hold no more than two Fast CAT events on the same day. A club licensed for Fast CAT may hold a maximum of (12) twelve Fast CAT events per year and a club licensed for CAT may hold an unlimited number of CAT events per year.

Events may be held as stand-alone tests or may be held in conjunction with another AKC event. All Fast CAT and CAT events shall be open to all dogs, except Specialty clubs may open to their breed only and Group clubs may open to the breeds in their group.

If a club is concerned that entries may be more than can be accommodated, the club may limit the number of entries. If entries are limited, the numeric limit must be printed in the premium list. A test is identified by an event number and must start and conclude on the same day.

Only Coursing Ability Tests can conflict with other Coursing Ability Tests and Fast CATs can only conflict with other Fast CATs. Tests of the same type must not be held less than 100 miles apart on the same date in the same location by two different clubs. Exceptions may be granted by the Performance Events Department under special circumstances.

A club that has a mileage conflict will only be permitted to hold their event if in each instance it obtains the written permission of the club with the established date and submits the written permission along with its event application.

A club that has held an event in any one year shall have first right to host an event on the corresponding date(s) in the succeeding year. A club must hold a minimum of one event every other calendar year to remain active with the AKC.

For Fast CATs only, 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 close succession or when the owner feels the dog is ready.

Upon event approval, event materials also referred to as event kits will be emailed digitally to the event secretary.

CAT materials can be directly accessed by going to: <https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/coursing-ability-test/cat-event-forms/>.

Fast CAT event materials can be directly accessed by going to: <https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/coursing-ability-test/cat-event-forms/>.

Due to approval correspondence being done via e-mail, an email address must be provided on the event application form for the Secretary and Chairperson. Event forms/booklets that are not easily downloadable can be requested by e-mail to: CATFastCAT@akc.org.

If circumstances prior to the first day of an event require a club to cancel the event, or to change the approved location, the event-giving club must notify The AKC, in advance, if possible.

SECTION 3. EVENT COMMITTEE. A club that has been granted permission by The American Kennel Club to hold a test must appoint an Event Committee which will have complete responsibility for the planning and the orderly conduct of the event. The Event Committee shall include no less than five club members (including the Chairperson). At least three club members must be present on the event grounds at all times during the running of the test. The names of the individual event committee members must be listed in the premium list. The Event Committee is responsible for compliance with all regulations and has the authority to decide upon all matters arising during the running of the event, except for those matters coming under the sole jurisdiction of the judge(s). The Committee shall be responsible for the duties enumerated in the following sections which may not be delegated.

***Note:** All members of the Event Committee involved in a preliminary investigation, and/or official misconduct hearing must be members of the event giving club.*

When a dog is seriously injured or dies in connection

with an event, the Event Committee must conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if negligence or the willful conduct of an individual caused the injury or death. If the preliminary investigation determines that there was no negligence or willful conduct causing the injury or death, then a written report of the findings of the preliminary investigation must be submitted to the AKC (Attn: Executive Secretary), 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178 within five (5) days. If the Event Committee determines that negligence or willful conduct may have caused the death or serious injury, the Event Committee must hold an event misconduct hearing.

Event Committees may make additional regulations for the governing of their events as shall be considered necessary and proper, provided that such regulations do not conflict with, change or modify any Rules or Regulations of The American Kennel Club. Such additional regulations shall be printed and distributed with the premium list, and violations thereof shall be considered the same as violations of the Rules and Regulations of The AKC.

It is the Event Committee's responsibility to ensure the field conditions including equipment and course are safe. The Event Committee has the authority to cancel an event if they believe the field conditions are not safe and the circumstances cannot be corrected. The event-giving club must notify The AKC if an event had to be cancelled so the Performance Events Department is not expecting results to be received or recorded. An email notification must be sent to: perfcancel@akc.org. Refer also to webpage: <https://www.akc.org/sports/event-cancellations/performance-event-cancellations/>.

The decisions of the Event Committee shall be final, conclusive and binding on all parties, in all matters occurring on the day of the event, except for matters coming within the jurisdiction of the Judge(s). Such Committee decisions must be made in accord with the general regulations and standard procedures that apply to the test being held.

The decision of the Judge is final in all matters relating to the merits of a dog's performance. If a judge has concerns regarding field conditions, they should be communicated to the Event Committee.

If it becomes necessary to replace an advertised judge after the opening of the event, the Event Committee may select any qualified person provided such person is in good standing with The AKC. The Event Committee must announce and post the name of any substitute judge.

If a judge is substituted, the owner or handler of a dog entered in that test has the option of withdrawing the dog and receiving an entry fee refund.

The Event Committee shall handle all official protests on the day of the event as specified in Chapter 4, Section 1.

The Event Committee may decline any entries or may remove any dog from its event for cause, but in each such instance shall file in a timely manner, good and sufficient reason for doing so with the AKC Performance Events Department.

SECTION 4. SECRETARY AND CHAIRPERSON.

A club holding a CAT or Fast CAT event must name a Secretary and a Chairperson. The Chairperson must be a member of the club, and shall not be designated the Secretary. The premium list for a licensed or member club test shall designate the Secretary as receiving entries. The Secretary and Chairperson shall be ineligible to judge any CAT event at which they act in these official capacities.

The Event Secretary must be on site at all times and must sign the result sheets and/or the Secretary's Report certifying the results are accurate. The Secretary prepares and mails out premium lists and entry forms, after receiving official approval, and accepts entries. The Secretary is also responsible for: the running order and run times of dogs in the test, provides the Inspection Committee a list of entrants for roll call, provides a copy if needed, of the current edition of these Regulations and AKC's publication entitled "Dealing with Misconduct" and any Disqualification Forms, ensures that all results and secretary forms are available and forwarded with the event service fees to reach The AKC within seven (7) days after the close of the event. Penalty for non-compliance is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and five dollars (\$5.00) for each day beyond the deadline, and other such penalties as maybe imposed by The American Kennel Club. A club holding a licensed or member event shall retain a copy of the official record sheets for at least one year.

Dogs owned or co-owned by a paid event secretary, or any member of their immediate family or household, are not eligible to enter an event where the individual is the event secretary. Paid means the person is compensated in any manner, whether directly from the host club or as part of a service provider team.

***Note:** Any club that wishes to accept dogs for roll call prior to the published time may do so if acceptance prior to published time is listed in the premium or if due to summer heat it is safer to run dogs earlier. Acceptance time must be listed in the premium and the cover letter (if one is used); e.g., Early acceptance may begin one-half hour prior to published test hours. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in a fine or failure to receive approval for future events or both.*

The Chairperson presides over the Event Committee. The Chair shall appoint an inspection committee responsible for inspecting all dogs entered. The Chairperson shall be responsible for: ensuring the course has been laid out according to the approved course plan, is responsible for ensuring that all equipment is in place and functioning, is responsible for any awards being on hand, provides for policing, e.g., cleanup of the grounds before, during and after the test especially anything remotely resembling a lure or anything hazardous, must individually approve anyone who is to be allowed in the judging area other than the officials of the test (e.g., apprentice judges). The Chairman may levy and collect a penalty fee of \$5.00 from the owner or his duly authorized agent of any dog that is loose on the field and may arrange for the announcement of awards at the end of the test.

SECTION 5. HUNTMASTER. In summary, the Huntmaster is in charge of all dogs and handlers on the field/course. The Huntmaster 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 prior to the release.

The pattern for starting should always be the same. After the dog and handler come to the start line, the huntmaster shall stand in close proximity to, but not in front of, the handler and dog. The huntmaster checks that the lure operator is ready, then checks that the handler is ready. The huntmaster then signals the lure operator to start the lure, then, when the lure is moving, the huntmaster yells “Tally-ho” and the dog can be released when the handler hears the “T” in Tally-ho. The lure is always in motion before “Tally-ho” is yelled. Dogs should not be released before the sound of the “T” in “Tally-ho”. The huntmaster will notify the handler and judge (if a CAT event) of any premature start and conduct a restart when necessary. The huntmaster shall inspect the lure before each run and replace it if needed and shall notify the Chairperson of any dog which appears lame, and shall immediately inform the handler when a dog is excused. The Huntmaster can cause the lure to be stopped in any potentially dangerous situation and signal the handler to retrieve their dog when appropriate or when necessary for the safety of the dog. For Fast CAT tests, the Huntmaster shall instruct the handler to retrieve their dog if their dog fails to show continued motion or pursuit of the lure. The minimum age of the Huntmaster must be 16 years old.

SECTION 6. LURE OPERATOR. The Lure Operator is in charge of operating the lure. If the lure operator has concerns about the course layout, those concerns should be communicated to the Chairman. The Lure Operator shall make at least one pilot run of the lure with a test dog before the first run of the test and again upon changing the course layout. The Lure Operator starts the lure at the signal from the Huntmaster and gradually stops the lure at least 20 yards in advance of the lure machine or final pulley for a CAT course. The lure should begin to come to a gradual stop after reaching the finish line in Fast CAT. After the course begins, the lure operator shall attempt to keep the lure out in front of the dog at all times at an acceptable distance. The Lure Operator shall stop the lure on a signal from the Huntmaster or Judge, but shall automatically stop the lure any time a dog becomes entangled in the string or when a potentially dangerous situation may develop.

Lure operators shall not operate the lure for the same breed of dog owned or co-owned by them or any member of their immediate family or household that is running. More than one lure operator may be used during an event.

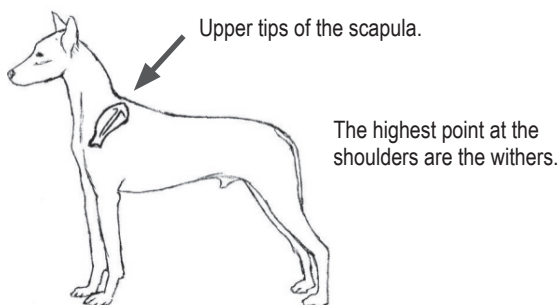
SECTION 7. INSPECTION COMMITTEE AND MEASURING. An inspection committee consisting of at least two persons who are club members of the event committee shall inspect each entry for lameness, fitness to participate and females in season. Inspection shall take place prior to any form of wrapping being applied to the dog. In the opinion of the inspection committee, any entry found to be lame, unfit to participate or a female in season shall not be allowed to enter and entry fees shall be refunded in full.

Dogs that are physically challenged due to loss of limbs are eligible to enter and should be given the same consideration by the inspection committee as four-legged dogs. A dog that exhibits a state of well-being at the time of inspection, shows no signs of physical discomfort, and in the opinion of the inspection committee appears to physically have the potential to safely complete the course, is to be considered fit to participate. For safety purposes, any dog requiring an assistance apparatus, such as a wheeled cart will not be allowed to participate.

If necessary, the Inspection Committee is responsible for measuring dogs to determine their height at the withers. The withers is the highest point of the shoulders right behind the base of the neck. (*see diagram*) The procedure for measuring should be the following:

The dog being measured shall be placed on a flat level surface that is not slippery. The handler shall position the

dog at the Inspection Committee's discretion. The dog shall be in a naturally alert position, with the head up but not stretched upward, and with its feet well under it and its forelegs vertical as viewed both from the front and side.



A member of the Inspection Committee shall first determine the highest point over the withers with one hand, and pass the measuring wicket over the dog from the rear with the other hand, and place the wicket so the cross piece comes down directly on the highest point over the withers. The wicket should not be placed on the neck in front of the shoulder or on the spinal column behind the withers. The two members of the Inspection Committee must agree to the determined measurement.

SECTION 8. PREMIUM LISTS. A premium list must be provided for licensed or member club CATs and Fast CATs. The host club is responsible for all the info that appears in the premium list. The premium list shall be printed on paper or provided electronically, and shall state whether the event is “Licensed by The American Kennel Club” or held by an “AKC Member Club.” Premium lists shall measure not less than 5½ x 8½ inches nor more than 8½ x 11 inches. Only information pertaining to the test shall be included on the premium list, except that CAT or Fast CAT events held at the same site on the same date as another licensed or member AKC event, may use the same premium, however all event numbers must appear on the entry form(s). The premium list must include the official AKC entry form. Separate enclosures mailed with the premium list are acceptable. One copy of the premium list must be mailed or e-mailed (CATFastCAT@akc.org) to the AKC at the same time they are mailed or distributed to prospective entrants.

A revised and accurate premium list must be sent to AKC if changes were made to information required and published in the club's premium list. Failure to submit the required premium list will result in a fine in the amount of \$50.00 being assessed to the event-giving club.

Clubs may, but are not required to, list the name of the lure operator in the premium list. The following information shall be included in the premium list for licensed or member club CAT or Fast CAT events: club name, location, date, start times, and type of test offered., club officers, city/state addresses of officers, names of committee members, start time, entry fees, tests offered, names and city/state address of judges (CAT only), name, city/state address, telephone of the chairperson, name, complete address and telephone number of event secretary, the date and time of entry closing and opening, if entries are advanced or day of, if entries are to be limited, what the numeric limit is and that entries will close when the numerical limit has been reached, also the official AKC entry form and if there will be a reduced entry fee for junior handlers.

For Fast CATs only, if a club holds two of the same kind of test on the same day, it must be stated in the premium if they will be held concurrently or consecutively.

For members of the Event Committee, dogs may be accepted for roll call prior to the published time. If this option is used, acceptance time must be listed in the Premium and cover letter (if one is used); e.g., “Early acceptance of dogs for members of the event committee may begin one-half hour prior to published test hours.”

Premium lists should also include the name and contact info of a veterinarian available during event hours.

All premium lists must include the statement “Permission has been granted by the American Kennel Club for the holding of this event under the American Kennel Club rules and regulations.” This statement must be shown with the AKC logo in the premium list.



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**

CERTIFICATION Permission has been granted by the American Kennel Club for the holding of this event under the American Kennel Club rules and regulations.

GINA M. DINARDO, Executive Secretary

A downloadable copy of the above statement with the logo is available online by going to: <https://www.akc.org/downloadable-forms/#Publishing>.

Premium lists for CAT events must include course plans. Plans must show course layouts and approximate distances between turns. The premium shall state the distance for each course and the eligibility of dogs for each course, including that veteran dogs may run two-thirds of the normal course distance at the owner’s discretion.

Premium lists for Fast CAT must state the length of run out, type of lure system being used, drag or continuous

loop and the type of lure – plastic bag or squawker.

For any event, the premium should state the type of surface used for the course and it must specify if it is on a natural or artificial surface with as much description as possible. The premium must state if the course at the event is enclosed with fencing or not and if it is not, provide a description of the perimeter fencing.

Premium lists should also describe any awards provided and specify if ribbons or rosettes will be given. Special ribbons or awards may be offered by the host club. If special ribbons or awards are offered, they must be clearly explained in the premium.

If a CAT or Fast CAT event 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.

Additional information required in the premium list may be stated in other sections throughout these Regulations.

SECTION 9. ADVERTISING. Clubs may only advertise corresponding dates, locations, and events plus club contact information prior to an event receiving AKC approval. Clubs may not advertise an event prior to AKC approval if the dates or locations differ from the previous year's corresponding event. Premium lists cannot be made available nor can entries be accepted until the event has been approved by the AKC. Site locations cannot be advertised as being an AKC approved course. Only official American Kennel Club titles may be included in any AKC publication, including event publications, e.g. premium lists, catalogs, etc.

SECTION 10. VETERINARIAN. The club shall have a veterinary clinic or a veterinarian on call whose name, address and telephone number shall appear in the premium list. Veterinary assistance shall be available within a reasonable time and/or distance, should it be necessary.

SECTION 11. ENTRY FEES, REFUNDS. The host club is responsible for determining the entry fee, the specific requirements regarding how entries will be accepted and under what conditions refunds will be accepted. Entry fees shall be fixed by the host club and shall be forfeited by the owner or agent in such cases where dogs are scratched from the field except as follows:

1. Dogs determined to be lame or unfit to participate by the Inspection Committee, owner or agent at the time of roll call or upon previous notification by the owner or agent. These dogs shall be barred from participating and their entry fees shall be refunded in full.

2. Bitches in season may not participate, or bitches which come in season after the close of entries, shall be barred from participating in the test and their entry fees shall be refunded in full. Notification to the Secretary of bitches in season, must be made before or during the roll call. A note from a veterinarian is not required. Bitches known to be in season shall not be brought onto the test grounds.

3. There shall be no special inducements. A club must treat all entrants in a similar manner. No club or member of a club shall offer special consideration to an entrant. This includes but is not limited to special treatment regarding entering an event or any financial or in-kind incentive. *Exception – with regard to entering an event, specialty clubs may give preference to their breed provided it is a limited entry event.*

Entry Fees shall be retained for dogs that are scratched (no shows). The entry fees for a scratched dog shall be divided between the host club, the service provider (if applicable) and the AKC in the same manner as a dog that ran. Results submitted to the AKC shall indicate the number of scratched dogs on the Secretary's Report.

A club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. The reduced entry fee shall be published in the premium list. A junior is defined as someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the event. The junior must handle the dog in the test to qualify for the reduced entry fee. If the dog is entered under this provision but the junior does not handle the dog, the owner must pay the regular entry fee as published.

Any Secretary or host club which accepts an entry fee other than that published in its premium list, or in any way discriminates between entrants, shall be disciplined. All persons found guilty of paying or receiving any monies, special inducements or allowances in violation of the foregoing shall be disciplined.

The Secretary shall decline any late, incomplete, unsigned, unpaid or conditional entries. Entries paid by check that result in funds not received by the host club may be subject to disciplinary action and fine. Each entry must be completed in full and the information given on the form must be that which applies to that entered dog. The entry form must be signed by the owner or agent duly authorized to make the entry.

The Event Committee has the responsibility to determine refunds in unusual situations.

SECTION 12. JUNIOR HANDLERS. Junior Handlers for Fast CAT may be releasers or catchers. Handlers that are releasers or catchers under the age of 18 can apply

for a Junior Handler Number and will have their wins acknowledged through the Junior Recognition Program. At the end of the year, the AKC will award a Junior Versatility Award to any juniors meeting the requirements. Judges or Secretaries must complete and submit the Junior Handler Certification Form to the AKC.

To learn more about the Junior Recognition Program or to apply for a Junior Handler Number, go to: <https://www.akc.org/sports/conformation/junior-showmanship/junior-recognition-program/> or email the AKC Juniors Department at juniors@akc.org.

SECTION 13. ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER. CAT and 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 (mixed or purebred) can be 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. Dogs that are physically challenged due to loss of limbs are eligible to enter and should be given the same consideration by the inspection committee as four-legged dogs. A dog that exhibits a state of well-being at the time of inspection, shows no signs of physical discomfort, and in the opinion of the inspection committee appears to physically have the potential to safely complete the course, is to be considered fit to participate. For safety purposes, any dog requiring an assistance apparatus, such as a wheeled cart will not be allowed to participate.

A dog may enter only once per event. (An event is defined by an event number.)

Dogs owned or co-owned by a paid event secretary, or any member of their immediate family or household, are not eligible to enter an event where the individual is the event secretary. Paid means the person is compensated in any manner, whether directly from the host club or as part of a service provider team.

SECTION 14. CLOSING OF ENTRIES. Entries for a licensed or member club CAT or Fast CAT event must close at the time specified in the premium list if entries are taken in advance. A club holding a licensed or member test shall not accept any entries received after the closing time and date specified in the premium list. Each entry form

must be completed in full and signed by the owner or duly authorized agent, and the information given on the official entry form must be that which applies to the entered dog. Separate entry forms must be completed for each dog entered in a test.

SECTION 15. ENTERING AN EVENT. All participants must fill out an official AKC 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 another AKC 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 or 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 16. COLLAR/PARAPHENALIA. 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. The event committee at its discretion may require tags hanging from the collar to be secured to ensure the dog's safety. Owners should be aware that there is a chance that tags hanging from the collar could become entangled on something during the run. If owners are concerned, tags may be taped to the collar. 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. Head halters, such as the Gentle Leader or Halti, may be used on the grounds but must not be worn while running the course. Dogs may be muzzled at the owner's discretion. Muzzles must not have sharp, hard edges and must allow the dog to breathe.

SECTION 17. DOGS WITH COLORING. Dogs with artificial coloring in their coats may participate in Coursing Ability Tests (CAT) and Fast CAT. The coloring must not cover more than one-third of the dog's coat. The coloring must not disperse (leave a cloud) when the dog is running. Colored markings on a dog must not be in poor taste and cannot contain profanity or conflict with a sponsor of a test. It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to decide if the coloring is acceptable.

SECTION 18. WEATHER. Weather is an important consideration for the event committee. The safety of participants and animals is of utmost importance. Extreme weather such as lightening, strong winds, heat or cold, snow or heavy rain can create hazardous conditions. If the location is predicted to have increased heat/humidity during events, it is recommended clubs have cooling stations available for the dogs, like ice, misting stations or kiddie swimming pools. Host clubs conducting events during warmer temperatures, can at their discretion give special consideration to allow older or brachycephalic dogs the opportunity to run in the morning.

The event committee has the responsibility to decide if an event should be halted due to weather and at what point the event shall resume. If a weather delay results in an entrant being unable to participate, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event committee. If an entire event or part of an event is cancelled due to weather, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event committee.

SECTION 19. SUBMISSION OF RESULTS. The host club is responsible for the submission of results. The complete results which include a Secretary's Report, the official qualifier sheet(s) for each event marked with each qualified dog, certified to and signed by the Secretary and for a CAT event, it would also be signed by the Judge(s) along with all event service fees (\$3.50 per dog entered) must be sent to The American Kennel Club so as to reach its office within seven (7) days after the close of the event. Penalty for noncompliance is twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars, and five (\$5.00) dollars for each day's delay beyond the deadline, and other such penalties as may be imposed by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. All recording fees shall be paid to The American Kennel Club within seven (7) days after the close of the event.

At every licensed and member club event held under these Regulations, an event service fee of \$3.50 shall be required for every entry. The event service fee is payable to The American Kennel Club and is to help defray expenses involved in maintaining the records, and applies to all entries, regardless of whether or not they participate, unless the entry fee is refunded in whole.

All necessary forms for submitting results is downloadable from the AKC website. Clubs are encouraged to take advantage of the electronic submittal method for convenience and faster recording of qualified wins. To submit results electronically use the E-Results Template available for CAT or Fast CAT. MPH and point calculations

are automatically calculated for Fast CAT. The Event Secretary's Report can also be submitted electronically. To submit results electronically go to:

For CAT:

<https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/coursing-ability-test/e-results-template/>

For Fast CAT:

<https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/e-results-template/>

If using traditional forms go to:

<https://www.akc.org/downloadable-forms/#EventReports>
and select the following forms:

- Coursing Ability Test Results Form
- Secretary Report: Coursing Ability Test (CAT)
- Fast CAT Manual Results Sheet
- Secretary Report: Fast CAT
- Junior Handler Certification Form

To be sure entrants that are junior handlers are recognized for their accomplishment, complete the Junior Handler Certification Form and send to AKC.

A club holding a licensed or member CAT or Fast CAT event shall retain a copy of the official results submitted for at least one year. All post event results forms can be emailed to: performanceresults@akc.org.

SECTION 20. POSTING OF RESULTS. Event Results for CAT and Fast CAT are published online and can be found by visiting <https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search>. First select "Performance Events", then select the type of test either "CAT" or "Fast CAT" then select the state, hit "retrieve". When you see the event you are looking for, click "View Complete Event Details", scroll down to the bottom and click on the event type, "CAT" or "Fast CAT" in blue text listed above the total number of starters, you will see the official results for that event. Upon the official recording of a Fast CAT event, the top 20 breed rankings are automatically updated.

SECTION 21. CANCELLATION OF AWARDS. If an ineligible dog has been entered and run in a licensed or member CAT or Fast CAT event, or if the person or persons named as owner or owners on the entry form are not the person or persons who actually owned the dog at the time entries closed, or if a dog is run in an event for which it has not been entered, or if its entry form is deemed invalid by The American Kennel Club under the Rules and Regulations, all resulting qualifying scores and/or points,

as applicable to the dog in question, shall be cancelled by The American Kennel Club. If points and/or qualifying scores of a dog is cancelled by The American Kennel Club, the entrant of the dog shall return all awards to the Secretary of the event giving club within ten (10) days of receipt of notice from The American Kennel Club of said cancellation.

CHAPTER 3

Standard Procedures for Coursing Ability Tests (CAT)

SECTION 1. DESCRIPTION. A Coursing Ability Test, tests a dog's ability to traverse a basic course while following a lure. Dogs are required to complete their course with enthusiasm and without interruption within a maximum amount of time. The Coursing Ability Test was developed based on the AKC Lure Coursing program and is a pass/fail event. Titles are awarded based on the accumulation of passes. CAT tests are held outdoors and are open to any breed or mixed breed dog.

SECTION 2. 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 or a white plastic bag. 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 sighthound and this must be a consideration in the design of a course.

When using a continuous loop system the lure must not traverse the course twice in order to meet the distance requirements. When using a continuous loop system, mid-course reversals are not permissible.

The event committee is responsible for the safety of the course by ensuring they have individuals with sufficient experience and knowledge in course design at the event. This experience can be gained by serving as a lure operator, chairperson or huntmaster, having run a dog to its lure coursing championship, or being an AKC lure coursing judge. The judge is responsible for walking the course prior to the start of the event in order to look for hazards.

SECTION 3. DISTANCE AND MAXIMUM TIME.

Dogs run singly in Coursing Ability Test events. Veteran dogs may run two-thirds of the normal distance at the owner's discretion. Veteran dogs are defined for this test as dogs older than 7 years of age. A veteran dog's owner must declare prior to the start which distance the dog will run.

300 Yard Course. This distance is for dogs shorter than 12 inches at the withers and/or brachycephalic ("flat-faced") dogs. A veteran dog may run 200 yards at the owner's discretion. A dog must complete this course in less than 1½ minutes.

600 Yard Course. This distance is used for all dogs that do not run the 300-yard course. A veteran dog may run 400 yards at the owner's discretion. A dog must complete this course in less than 2 minutes.

If there is a question whether a dog should run the 300 or 600-yard course, the judge will decide. The premium shall state the distance for each course and the eligibility of dogs for each course, including that veteran dogs may run two-thirds of the normal course distance at the owner's discretion.

SECTION 4. 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. A dog is considered to have failed the test if it relieves itself while on course. The time ends when the dog completes the required course. The judge keeps the official time and decides the merits of the dog's performance. The judge's decision is final in all matters relating to the merits of a dog's performance.

SECTION 5. TITLES. Three suffix titles will be awarded for dogs that pass the Coursing Ability Test the required number of times. The highest level offers a numeric title. Suffix titles will appear on a dog's pedigree with any higher-level title superseding a lower-level title. Titles must be earned in order.

Coursing Ability (CA) – Awarded to a dog that passes the Coursing Ability Test (3) three times under at least (2) two different judges.

Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA) – Awarded to a dog that passes the Coursing Ability Test a total of (10) ten times. (the CA title plus (7) seven additional passes).

Coursing Ability Excellent (CAX) – Awarded to a dog that passes the Coursing Ability Test a total of (25) twenty-five times.

Coursing Ability Excellent 2 (CAX2) – Awarded to a dog that passes the Coursing Ability Test a total of (50) fifty times. A higher numbered title will be awarded for every additional (25) twenty-five passes.

SECTION 6. RIBBONS OR ROSETTES. A club holding a 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. Qualifying ribbons or rosettes shall be orange in color. Any additional ribbons or rosettes offered is not required and is at the option of the club.

SECTION 7. ELIGIBILITY TO JUDGE. All AKC approved Lure Coursing event judges are approved to judge a Coursing Ability Test. People who are not Lure Coursing judges may be approved to judge a Coursing Ability Test provided they meet the following minimum requirements: (1) Must be in good standing with the AKC and are at least 21 years of age, and (2) Have a minimum of three years of experience in the sport of Lure Coursing. It is the responsibility of the host club to assure these requirements are met.

More than one judge can be approved to judge an event but only one judge is permitted to judge at a time. This can be helpful if a club experiences a high number of entries. Judges are permitted to run their own dog, only if they can be relieved of their judging responsibility for that run by another approved judge. A judge cannot stop judging a test to handle a dog in another test.

A judge while on the field during his judging assignment, shall not discuss anything relative to his judging assignment with any handler or agent.

SECTION 8. DOG’S ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER UNDER A JUDGE. A dog is not eligible to be entered or to run in any test if a judge of that test or any member of his or her family has owned, sold, held under lease, boarded, trained or handled the dog, within one year prior to the date of the event.

SECTION 9. JUDGE’S COURSE INSPECTION. Each Judge, before beginning his assignment, shall walk the course to verify that the course plan is properly set up and free of hazards insofar as possible. If the Judge has concerns, these should be communicated to the Event

Committee. It is the Event Committee's responsibility to ensure safe conditions. If the Event Committee decides there are unsafe conditions that cannot be corrected, the Event Committee may cancel the event. Entry fees shall be refunded by the host club, and the Judge(s) shall be reimbursed for his expenses. The Judge, however, will not receive any additional funds or payment as may have been previously agreed to by the host club. The Event Committee shall have the option to reschedule the event, and if rescheduled, entry refunds will be processed only for those declining attendance and participation in the rescheduled event.

SECTION 10. PRE-COURSE BRIEFING BY JUDGE.

Prior to running any course in a Coursing Ability Test, the judge(s) shall call the handlers together for a review of what is expected of the handlers and dogs, as well as to be sure all handlers are aware of handling and safety procedures.

SECTION 11. CALLING A NO COURSE / RERUN.

A judge may call a no-course if the dog is interfered with or disrupted, or if the Judge cannot fairly evaluate the run or if a segment of the lure falls off and the dog reacts to said segment, but only if the Judge(s) cannot fairly evaluate the run. If a dog touches or catches the lure and that action causes interference with the running of the course or if a dog, at any time, becomes entangled in the string, the Judge shall order the lure stopped and may declare a no-course. If the Lure Operator fails to maintain the appropriate distance out in front of the dog, and the dog becomes unsighted or overrun from the lure, the Judge shall have the prerogative to call a no-course. In the situations of a no-course being called due to circumstances which disrupt the dog's run, the judge is to provide the opportunity for a rerun.

CHAPTER 4

Standard Procedures for Fast CAT

SECTION 1. DESCRIPTION. Fast CATs are pass/fail events open to any breed or mixed breed that tests the ability to run a straight course of a 100-yards while following a lure. Dogs are required to complete their course with enthusiasm and without interruption. Dogs run alone and their recorded time to complete the course is converted to MPH. Dogs earn points based on their speed and their handicap which is based on their height. Titles are awarded based on point accumulation.

SECTION 2. COURSE/EQUIPMENT.

A. Safety: Safety is of utmost importance. It is the responsibility of the event committee to ensure 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. Clubs must clearly mark the 10 feet start box on the ground. A dog may be released from anywhere within the start box, however, at a minimum, a dog’s front paws must be inside the start box when it is released. Enough space must be provided behind the back of the start box to accommodate the dog’s body to be aligned straight down the course. At the start, the lure must be resting in front of the dog. When the lure starts to move, the dog may be released. Hot starts where the dog is released as the lure passes the dog are not allowed.

The pattern for starting should always be the same. After the dog and handler come to the start line, the huntmaster shall stand in close proximity to, but not in front of, the handler and dog. The huntmaster checks that the lure operator is ready, then checks that the handler is ready. The huntmaster then signals the lure operator to start the lure, then, when the lure is moving, the huntmaster yells “Tally-ho” and the dog can be released when the handler hears the “T” in Tally-ho. The lure is always in motion before “Tally-ho” is yelled. Dogs should not be released before the sound of the “T” in “Tally-ho”. The huntmaster will notify the handler of any premature start and conduct a restart when necessary.

C. The Finish: The club must provide enough room for a safe run-out area. It is required this be a minimum of 30 yards and suggested the run out be 50 yards. 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. A handler cannot recall their dog from the start line.

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). Effective March 1, 2022, the time of the dog must be determined by the use of break-the-beam electronic timers. Two stopwatches must be available as a backup in case the

electronic timers do not work. 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 start 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.

An individual may not operate a timing device for any run in which they or a member of their immediate family or household own or co-own the running dog. In addition, an individual may not be involved in timing or recording the time for the same breed they, or any member of their immediate family or household, owns or co-owns, if their dog is entered in the event. For the purposes of this restriction, All-American dogs are considered one breed.

E. Lure Equipment: Clubs may use either a drag or continuous loop system. If a continuous loop system is used, the “return” string and lure must be set outside of the running course. The return string shall not run in front of the catch area exit gate and shall be located to minimize interference with spectators. 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 may, but are not required to list the name of the lure operator in their premium list. Clubs are required to be equipped with a backup lure machine should one fail and become inoperable during an event.

An individual shall not operate the lure for a dog they, or any member of their immediate family or household, owns or co-owns. In addition, an individual cannot operate the lure for the same breed they, or any member of their immediate family or household, owns or co-owns, if their dog is entered in the event. For the purpose of this restriction, All-American dogs are considered one breed.

F. Lure: A white plastic bag or a squawker may be used for the lure. A squawker is defined as a type of lure that may or may not make noise. 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.

G. Course/Fencing: The course is defined by the area from the back of the of the start box to the end of the run-out. It is recommended the course be on a natural surface and fully grassed. The course can be on soft sand or dirt. If turf is being used it must be stated in the premium list. or The course must be essentially flat and the center of the course

must run straight throughout, from back of the starting box to the end of the run-out area. 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 or potentially hazardous obstacles are prohibited from placement inside the course. For clubs using drag lures, retrieval devices used to return the lure to the start line must be located at least 30 yards from the finish line and must be on the side of the course. Clubs holding Fast CAT events held in conjunction with another event must enclose the entire course with a fence. The fence must be of sufficient height and substance as to prevent dogs from accessing or escaping the course. The fenced area shall include the starting and run-out areas. Clubs holding standalone Fast CAT events should consider fencing the course, however this is up to the decision of the club given the specifics of the setting. The premium must state if the course is enclosed with fencing.

Fast CAT is an energizing sport. Dogs watching Fast CAT may become excited. If Fast CAT is being held in conjunction with another event, clubs must provide sufficient distance between events (including the parking areas). Sufficient distance is defined as enough separation to minimize the disruption of dogs that are present for the other event.

SECTION 3. CONDUCT OF HANDLERS. Handlers in Fast CAT are not permitted to travel down the 100-yard course during a dog's run or just prior to a dog being released for its run. If the course is fenced, this includes both inside or outside the fence. Handlers shall simply release the dog in the starting box and may not run with the dog within the starting box. Handlers may run within the catchment area as their dog is running the course but may not cross the finish line. Cheering, clapping, calling the dog's name, whistling and waving arms from the end of the course or the start area is allowed. Noise making devices such as whistles, duck calls, electronic calls or other items of this nature are not permitted. The use of toys, treats, flags or other items of this nature are not permitted while the dog is running the 100-yard course, however they may be used after the dog has crossed the finish line to assist in catching the dog. Should a situation arise where the application of this Regulation is open for interpretation, the event committee shall decide how it will be handled. An explanation shall be submitted to the AKC along with the event results.

SECTION 4. PASSING PERFORMANCE. Fast CAT is a pass/fail event. In order to pass, the dog must complete the course without interruption. A dog is considered to have failed the test if it relieves itself prior to the finish line. The time ends when the dog crosses the finish line.

SECTION 5. CONVERTING TIME TO SPEED. After a dog completes the course, the time is recorded then is converted to MPH.

A dog's 100-yard dash time must be converted into MPH using the formula below, rounded to the nearest hundredth of a mile:

$$\frac{204.545}{\text{dog's time}} = \text{MPH}$$

Example: The dog's time is 8.14 seconds.

$$204.545 / 8.14 = 25.13 \text{ MPH}$$

$$\frac{204.545}{8.14} = 25.13$$

Once the calculation is determined using the above formula, only then can rounding to the nearest hundredth take place.

The Fast CAT E-Results Template is emailed from the Performance Events Department to the Secretary upon event approval. The template will automatically calculate the MPH and points once the Secretary inputs the raw time and handicap. This allows for faster electronic submission and processing of results. Clubs are encouraged to utilize this template. The Performance Events Department may change or correct an unusually high or low result. The E-Results Template for Fast CAT can be downloaded by going to <https://www.akc.org/downloadable-forms/#EventReports> and clicking on "Fast CAT E-Results Template".

SECTION 6. CALCULATING POINTS. 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.

$\text{MPH} \times \text{HANDICAP} = \text{POINTS}$

MPH multiplied by a dog's handicap = Points

Example:

A dog taller than 18" runs 9.09 seconds,
the MPH = 22.50 so this dog earned 22.50 points.

$$22.50 \text{ MPH} \times 1 = 22.50 \text{ POINTS}$$

SECTION 7. TITLES. Titles are earned by accumulating points. The following titles will be awarded:

BCAT = 150 points

DCAT = 500 points

FCAT = 1,000 points

FCAT# = for every additional 500 points earned after earning an FCAT title a number will follow.
(e.g. FCAT2)

These suffix titles will appear on a dog's pedigree, with a higher-level title superseding a lower-level title. Titles must be earned in order.

SECTION 8. TOP 20 DOGS BY BREED BY YEAR.

National rankings showing the top 20 fastest dogs by breed for a calendar year (as determined by the average speed of a dog's top three runs in that year) will be maintained on the Fast CAT website found here: https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/fastcat_ranking/index.cfm or go to the main Fast CAT webpage: <https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/> and click on the left tab called "Top 20 Fastest Dogs By Breed". These rankings will be automatically updated as results are processed.

SECTION 9. RIBBONS AND AWARDS. A club holding a Fast CAT event must award a ribbon to each dog that completes the 100-yard dash. The ribbon 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. Special ribbons or awards may be offered by the host club. If special ribbons or awards are offered, they must be clearly explained in the premium.

SECTION 10. MAJOR EVENT. Any major event(s) hosted by the AKC will have announcements, qualifications, event info and result coverage, etc. published online which can be found by visiting the Fast CAT homepage: <https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/>.

CHAPTER 5

Excusals or Disqualifications

SECTION 1. EXCUSALS. Dogs may be excused from the course by a judge in a CAT event or by the Huntmaster in a Fast CAT event for excessively delaying the course, being found unfit to compete, interference with the course in progress by the owner or handler, or not being ready to run when called to the line. Dogs must be given 5 minutes grace time to arrive to the line when called. When a dog is excused during a CAT event, the judge shall immediately inform the Huntmaster. Dogs excused shall be considered as a scratch.

SECTION 2. DISQUALIFICATION BY A JUDGE. A dog is not eligible to be entered in a licensed or member club CAT event if the dog has on one occasion been made subject to the following report: If a dog, while under judgment at a CAT event attacks another dog, and the judge is of the opinion that such an attack was without reasonable cause, the judge shall identify the offending dog on the “Dog DQ by Judge at a Performance Event Form” found online at: <https://www.akc.org/downloadable-forms/#PerformanceJudges> or provided by the Secretary and the name of the offending dogs shall be listed on the form of the CAT event and sent to the American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not compete in any AKC CAT events until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to The American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog’s eligibility has been reinstated. Barking and/or growling, in and of itself, does not constitute aggression. A dog shall not be disqualified for defending itself when attacked.

When a dog is disqualified by a judge during a CAT event, the judge shall immediately inform the Huntmaster. Any dog that is disqualified by a judge will not receive a qualifying pass and will be considered a scratched dog. Dogs scratched due to a disqualification must be included on the Secretary’s Report Form when reporting the total number of scratched dogs.

SECTION 3. DISQUALIFICATION BY AN EVENT COMMITTEE. Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee or The American Kennel Club, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC CAT or Fast CAT event, resulting in injury, and is believed by that Event Committee or The American Kennel Club to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified. When the dog is

disqualified by the Event Committee, pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed using the “Dog Aggression – Action by Event Committee Form” immediately with the Executive Secretary of the American Kennel Club. This form is available online at: <https://www.akc.org/downloadable-forms/#Other> or should be provided by the Secretary. The disqualified dog may not compete at any AKC events nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to The American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog’s eligibility has been reinstated.

Any dog that is disqualified by an Event Committee will not receive a qualifying pass and will be considered a scratched dog. Dogs scratched due to a disqualification must be included on the Secretary’s Report Form when reporting the total number of scratched dogs.

SECTION 4. REINSTATEMENT. A dog disqualified twice is not eligible for reinstatement. For eligible dogs, the privilege to participate may be reinstated upon completion of the following:

1. A minimum of a calendar month of retraining. For dogs that are Disqualified by the Event Committee, the earning of a Canine Good Citizen title is a very logical step in retraining.
2. Certification in writing by two licensed judges or an AKC field representative stating the dog acted appropriately during two reenactments of the incident. The reenactments should involve different dogs or people, depending on the nature of the incident. Neither of the two judges may be owners, co-owners, immediate family of the owners or co-owners, nor reside in the same household as the owners of the disqualified dog.
3. A letter requesting reinstatement, a check made out for \$50.00 payable to the AKC, and the certifications must be sent to The American Kennel Club from the owner of the dog.
4. A decision by the AKC to reinstate said privilege.

CHAPTER 6

Instructions for Protests of Eligibility

SECTION 1. PROTESTS AGAINST DOGS. Any person who owns a dog entered in the test, or who handles a dog in the test may make a protest to the Event Committee against any participating dog either before or after the dog

has run, alleging that it is ineligible to participate in the test as entered. Such a protest shall be in writing, shall identify the dog protested and specify the basis for the protest, shall bear the signature and address of the person who makes it and shall describe his qualifications for making the protest. It shall be filed with the Secretary or with the Chairperson of the Event Committee before the completion of the event, and shall be accompanied by a deposit of \$25.00, which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, or which will be forfeited to the club if the protest is not sustained.

If such a protest is received, the Event Committee shall hold a meeting as soon as possible consisting of at least three (3) members of the club holding the event. The person who makes the protest must be present, and the Committee shall give all parties concerned an opportunity to be heard and to present witnesses and evidence. The Committee may call for additional evidence from other qualified persons present at the event. After hearing all of the evidence the Committee shall consider the matter and shall, if possible, reach an immediate decision and inform the persons involved.

In order to ensure impartiality, no person who owns or co-owns the dog being protested or any member of their household, and no individual who has trained or handled these dogs within the past year, may serve on the Committee hearing the protest. The Committee may vote to excuse anyone from the Committee if there are unique situations that cause the Committee to question an individual's ability to be impartial.

A report of the meeting, giving all of the essential evidence and the Committee's decision, together with the original written protest and the \$25.00 deposit, if not refunded, must be mailed to The American Kennel Club postmarked within nine (9) days after completion of the event.

An appeal to The American Kennel Club from a decision of a committee on any such protest may be made by either the owner of the dog protested or the person who made the protest. The appeal must be received by The American Kennel Club within thirty (30) days after the date of the committee's decision.

CHAPTER 7

Dealing with Misconduct

SECTION 1. MISCONDUCT COMPLAINT. Any person can file and submit a complaint alleging prejudicial conduct at or in connection with an event to the Event Committee. A complaint must be filed in writing and

submitted to the Event Committee in accordance with Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events, Section VII. The purpose of the Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events booklet is to provide a consistent and fair process by which to address alleged acts of prejudicial conduct. A complaint may be filed by anyone at the event, including but not limited to, a club member, judge, field rep, spectator, or committee member, etc. The Event Committee composition must be in accordance with *Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events*, Section III.

SECTION 2. ACTS OF MISCONDUCT. Proceedings under Article XIV, Section 1, of *The Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc*, may involve different types of conduct. One test in connection with any kind of scene or altercation occurring during an event is whether a family attending an event for the first time would be likely to decide, after witnessing such an incident, that the sport is not for them. Among the kinds of conduct that may occur are a demonstration of dissatisfaction with a judge's or official's decision including refusal to accept a ribbon or throwing a ribbon on the ground, altercations with officials or participants, abusive or foul language in public, and mistreatment of a dog are all examples of acts of misconduct. If there is any indication that a purportedly abused dog is physically injured, it is the duty of the committee to have it examined as soon as possibly by a veterinarian, and a detailed report made of the physical injuries.

SECTION 3. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EVENT COMMITTEE. When a written complaint is submitted to the Event Committee, the Committee on the day the alleged incident occurred, the Committee is obligated to investigate.

It is the duty of the Committee, not of the AKC, to deal initially with acts of alleged prejudicial conduct which occur at or in connection with a club's event. The AKC will support a Committee which properly executes its powers, but when a Committee fails to fulfill its obligations in this respect, serious questions arise as to whether the club should be allowed to hold future events under AKC rules. In situations where the club fails to meet its obligations, the Board of Directors of the AKC, after review, may impose a fine or withhold approval of events, or both.

Following an incident, the Event Committee should conduct a preliminary investigation. The purpose of a preliminary investigation is to establish whether the nature

of the incident, in proven, would constitute prejudicial conduct, not to establish guilt or innocence of the party or parties involved in the incident. In order to ensure an impartial hearing, all member of the Event Committee must be prepared to carry out the duties fairly and impartially. The composition of the Event Committee is addressed in the Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events, Section III.

***Note:** The power conferred to suspend a person from all privileges of The American Kennel Club applies only to Event Committees at licensed or member events.*

The Event Committee report of any action taken under this Section shall be submitted so as to be received within five (5) days of the hearing or incident to the American Kennel Club.

After the Event Committee report is sent to AKC, the Staff Event Committee will review the report to determine if there are any serious procedural errors and that the recorded evidence substantiates the findings of the Event Committee.

AKC provides the following resources on the www.akc.org/rules webpage found under “Dealing with Misconduct at AKC Events” in order to assist host clubs and exhibitors learn the procedures for making and handling a formal misconduct complaint.

1. *Dealing with Misconduct* booklet
2. Video on how to conduct a hearing
3. Step by step slide show
4. Procedural Checklist
5. Disciplinary Guidelines

If a club needs assistance with procedures for handling a misconduct situation, the Compliance Department should be contacted at 919-816-3546 Monday-Friday 8:15 AM – 4:30 PM (EST) or email: ComplianceDiv@akc.org.

If assistance is needed outside of business hours during an event, please call the Weekend Club Hotline at 919-816-3955. (*Please refer to inside cover for additional contact info*).

CHAPTER 8

Regulation Violations

SECTION 1. REGULATION VIOLATION COMPLAINT.

A written complaint pertaining to a violation in the regulations must include the name of the person making the complaint as well as who specifically was in violation and what the violation was. The written complaint must be sent to the Performance Events Department. The complaint

must provide as much detail as possible and include the specifics regarding the suspected regulation violation. Complaints that lack evidence or cogent information will be more difficult to address. The Performance Events Department will review the complaint and in doing so may request further information in order to determine if any action should or can be taken. The Performance Events Department may refer or consult with other departments or individuals related to the event. Each complaint will be handled individually and as thoroughly as possible so the time taken to review a complaint will vary. Issues with more complexity will take longer to review.

If a club or exhibitor needs assistance regarding a regulation violation, they should contact the Performance Events Department 919-816-3908 Monday to Friday, 8:15 AM to 4:30 PM (EST) or email: CATFastCAT@akc.org.

If assistance is needed outside of business hours during an event, please call the Weekend Club Hotline at 919-816-3955.

GLOSSARY

CATCHER:

Person who remains inside the catch pen during the dog's run who will collect and exit the dog once it completes the course.

CATCH PEN:

The area of the course just after the finish line also referred to as the run out.

FALSE START:

When a dog is released before the tally-ho is called by the Huntmaster. Also called premature start.

HOT START:

A hot start is where the dog is released as the lure passes the dog. This method of starting a lure is prohibited at AKC events.

HOUSEHOLD:

Includes those persons that comprise a unit living together in the same shared dwelling.

IMMEDIATE FAMILY:

Includes siblings, parents, grandparents, spouse and children.

LURE:

The object that is pursued by the dog throughout the course. Objects can be plastic strips, a white plastic bag or squawker.

NO COURSE:

A no course can be called by the judge in CAT or Huntmaster in Fast CAT when interference occurs which interrupts the run.

OVERRUN:

Failure of the Lure Operator to maintain an acceptable lead distance in front of the dog, resulting in the dog passing or overtaking the lure.

PULLEY:

The part of the lure operating equipment that helps direct the string across a course by sitting on the ground and allowing the string to travel along or around it.

RELEASER:

Person who enters the course at the start box and release the dog when tally-ho is called.

RUNNING ORDER:

The order or scheduled time in which dogs are to run. Secretaries may assign a pre-planned running order into set time blocks.

ROLL CALL:

All dogs entered have to go through roll call. That is where the inspection committee will check each dog for lameness, fitness to participate and for females in season. Roll call begins after the published test hours per premium list.

THE COURSE:

For Fast CAT the course is a straight line of 100 yards, for CAT there are two courses of 300 and 600 yards in a set pattern.

TIMER:

A designated person to help record times or operate a timing device or can be used to refer to part of the equipment used for an electronic timer.

UNSIGHTED:

When a dog loses their view of the lure.

VETERAN:

Dogs in CAT that are older than 7 years of age as they may run two-thirds of the normal course distance at the owner's discretion.

WICKET:

A measuring device which may be used in Fast CAT to determine the correct height category and handicap or for CAT when determining which course a dog may run.

AKC Code of Sportsmanship

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

Complete text of booklet available at: www.akc.org

To order booklet(s), contact AKC at:

The American Kennel Club

Order Desk

8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100

Raleigh, NC 27617-3390

Tel: (919) 233-9767

E-mail: orderdesk@akc.org

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