ASSOCIATION DE SPORTS RATIERS

RULES

Rev J – Oct 2026

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1 RATTING SPORTS - PREFACE

1.1 Association de Sports Ratiers (Ratting Sports Association)

The 'Association de Sports Ratiers' (ASR) is a non-profit association founded in 2018 to promote the use of uniform rules and regulations in rat hunting and to help ratting sports evolve over time. The ASR is committed to promoting various ratting sports games in a competition environment for all dogs regardless of breed thus allowing ratting sports enthusiasts t0 diversity their experiences in a new association.

1.2 Philosophy

Ratting sports is an entertaining activity that is accessible to all dogs, large or small, young or old, healthy or disabled. It is our pledge that the safety of the dogs or rats will never be at risk.

1.3 History

The ratting sports are based on the team work of 'ratcatchers' that would rid farms of rodents. These vermine exterminating teams were made up of a dog handler with one or several dogs. They would be hired to rid the barns, field and underground of these invaders. Ratting sports games are a more playful version of this hunt and were developped to test the dog's natural hunting ability and the pleasure of team work but in a well controlled and safe and secure environment.

1.4 Mission

ASR's mission is to enable all types of dogs to work as a team with their human caregiver and rekindle the hunting instinct and tracking abilities that were lost over the years.

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2 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Sanctioned Trial

A sanctioned trial is a rat hunting event organized according to the ASR rules, judged by two (2) ASR accredited judges and duly registered with the ASR before the event takes place. The results are cumulated in the dog's file maintained by the ASR.

2.1.1 Mini Trial

A mini trial is a sanctioned competition with only one event for one level. A mini trial may be judged by only one (1) accredited judge. As in regular sanctioned trial, participants can't have practice immediately before the mini trial. If such a competition is combined with a practice, the competition portion must take place before the practice.

2.2 Fun Match

A Fun Match is a practice trial that follows the rules of the ASR in all ways. The results are not cumulated in the dog's file. This type of event can be judged by accredited judges, judges in training or student judges (assistant).

2.3 Brush

Brush search takes place in a fenced enclosure indoor or outdoor. The outdoor enclosure can be in a wooded area, cleared and/or partly cleared area. Indoor, the brush is made up of hay, branches etc. The objective of this hunt is for the dog to find and mark the rat tube(s). The dimension of the enclosure, the number of rat tubes to find and the difficulty of rat tube location is based on the level attained by the dog.

2.4 Barn

Barn search takes place in a defined fenced enclosure outdoor or, if indoor, defined by walls and/or fences. The objective of this hunt is for the dog to find and mark all the rat tubes and for the handler to call each find. The dimension of the enclosure, the number of rats to find, the difficulty of location and the addition of virgin tubes or litter tubes is based on the level attained by the dog.

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2.5 Go-to-ground Hunting

This type of hunting can be done indoor or outdoor. Wooden tunnels are used to simulate underground rodent tunnels. The tunnels are square and their size naturally limits eligiblility to small dogs. The level of difficulty is in the length of the tunnel, the number of tunnels and blinds (turns, dead-ends etc.).

2.6 Dog restraint

The dog's behaviour is the sole responsibility of the handler. To be eligible to compete a dog must be under control before, during and after its trial leg. A dog under control is neither loud nor disruptive to other participants; no incessant barking or aggressive behaviour toward other dogs or humans. Handler must ensure the proper behaviour of their dog(s) at all time to avoid any incidents or accidents.

2.7 Veteran dog

Is considered veteran all dogs of

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- 8 years and over, for dogs under 24” at the shoulder
- 5 years and over for dogs 24” and over at the shoulder

2.8 Stack

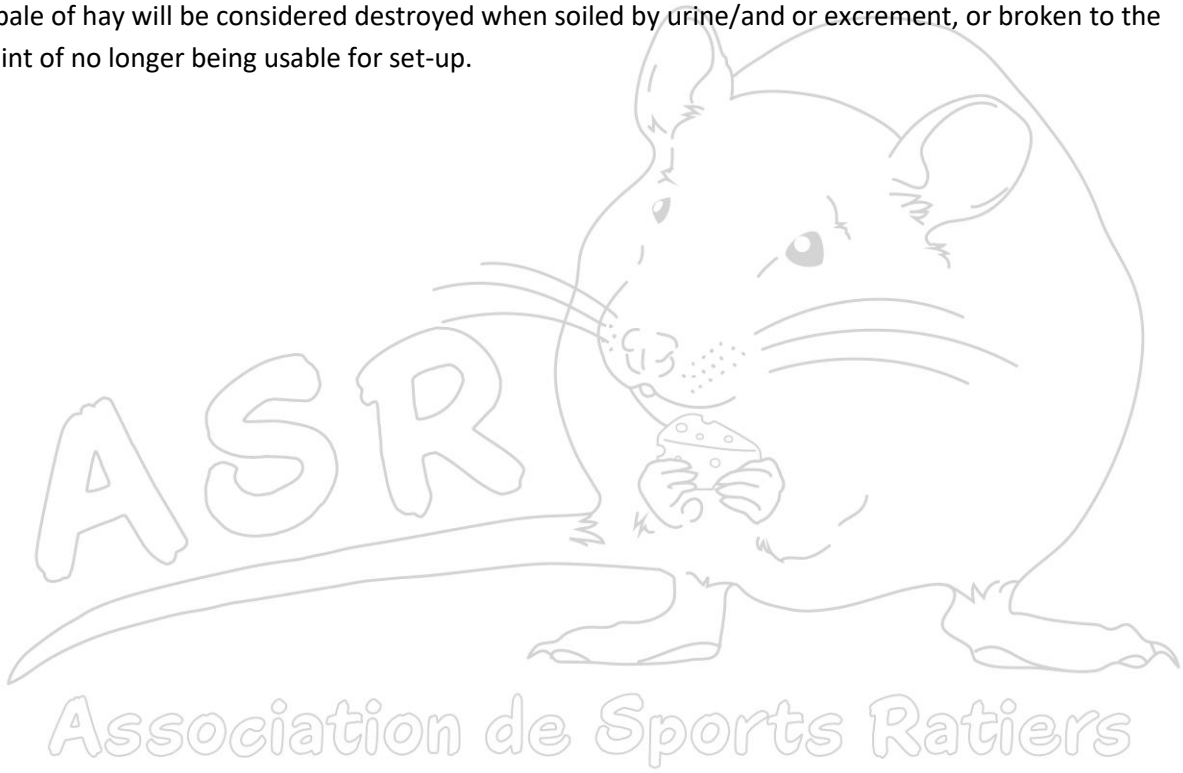
A stack is defined as an elevation formed with bales of hay.

2.9 Litter

The litter consists of fabric, paper, or any substrate impregnated with excrement and/or urine of rats less than 2 weeks old. If a substrate other than fabric or paper is used, it must be inserted into a nylon stocking or a net to ensure that everythingremains inside the tube.

2.10 Destruction

A bale of hay will be considered destroyed when soiled by urine/and or excrement, or broken to the point of no longer being usable for set-up.



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3 GENERAL RULES

3.1 Dogs eligible to compete

- 6 months' dog or older with an identification number (ID#) from ASR
- Any purebreed or mix dog
- Female in season wearing panties everywhere on the site of the competition
  - The participant must inform the hosting club as soon as possible, latest at the beginning of the competition, so the running order can be adjusted. A female in season will always run the last in its class.
- If handicapped or with limited abilities, the dog can run at the judge's discretion. The dog must not be in pain.

3.2 Judge decisions

All decisions rendered by the judge are final and non negotiable.

3.3 Dogs are grouped based on the CKC Breed Standards

- Group 1: Sporting dogs
- Group 2: Hounds
- Group 3: Working dogs
- Group 4: Terriers
- Group 5: Toy dogs
- Group 6: Non-Sporting dogs
- Group 7: Herding dogs

Note: For mixed-breed dogs, the participant registers his dog in the group that is the closest fit. At anytime, the judge can reassign the dog to a different group that he deems more appropriate if the differences between the dog's caracteristics and the chosen group are obvious.

3.4 Code of conduct

3.4.1 Participants with disabilities

- Accomodation is at the discretition of the hosting club. The participant must inform the organizers of their particular needs when registering to give organizers time to process their request efficiently.

3.4.2 Dog aggression

- It is understood that each participant is solely responsable for the proper conduct of their dog(s). A participant, whose dog poses a threat and / or whose behaviour can become aggressive to other participants or dogs, must take all necessary precautions to keep other participants visually informed with accessories (yellow scarf or harness) and / or control their dog's behaviour with the proper equipment (gentle leader, muzzle).
- Any aggressive behaviour toward another dog or human will result in immediate expulsion from the competition with no refund.

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- Any aggressive behaviour toward another dog or human during a multiple-dog game (ex. relay) will mean banishment for life of that dog from that game.
- Explusion sentence can be ruled by the judges or a member of the organizing comittee of the event.
- In case of aggression during a competition, a report of the incident/accident must be filled and sent to the ASR.

3.4.3 Misconduct or Lack of sportsmanship

- If the judge or an official of the competition observes unsportsmanlike behaviour by a participant, he will be dismissed from the trial and requested to leave the competition site immediately with no refund.
- Non-exhaustive examples of lack of sportsmanship:
  - Screaming, hitting, rough handling or general abuse of a dog
  - Harassing, shouting, humiliating or intentionally shoving an official or other competitor

3.4.4 Dog restraint

- The owner or the person responsible for the dog must always have control over the dog(s).

3.5 Procedures

- It is the participant's responsibility to verify his registration with the event's secretary before the beginning of the game he is registered for. If a participant is not registered in due time, it is possible that participation in the event will be refused and no refund will be granted.
- The participant must attend the general briefing given before each game he is registered for.
- The participant must ensure he is present at his turn in the running order. Absence could mean elimination with no possibility of rescheduling and no refund.
- In all rat detection disciplines, the use of chokers, stud collars, ecollars, gentle leaders, toys and treats is not allowed in the ring during the search. The use of any of these items or extendable leashes around the ring is at the discretion of the host club and/or the province where the event is taking place. A participant who whishes can put a muzzle on his dog during the search.
- In all rat detection disciplines, the use of any timekeeping device (stopwatch, phone, watch, etc.) by participants is prohibited during searches.
- Out of respect for the club hosting the event (hay-bale expenses, hygiene of premises, etc), for all those who work in the ring and the other participants, a dog who relieves itself in the ring is disqualified and the team must leave the ring immediately.
  - A male with a belly band or a female with panties who relieves itself in the ring will not be penalized or disqualified if all remains in the belly band or the pantie.
  - An odourless desinfectant (such as Knok Out or an equivalent product) must be used to clean the area where the dog relieved itself.
- The following participant must wait for the preceding team to leave the ring with the dog under control, before approaching the ring. The team must wait for the judge's permission before entering the ring.
- The participant must enter the ring with his dog under control (with or without a leash)

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- The participating team must go to the start box or the defined start area and wait for the judge's signal.
- When ready, the judge will give the signal when the participant can release his dog
- Time starts when the dog's four paws are out of the start box
- As long as the dog is in the starting box, the participant can talk and stimulate his dog as much as he wants. As soon as the dog leaves the box, the handler must keep quiet and follow the judges' instructions.
- The participant must quickly control his dog when the rat has been found and marked to avoid any unnecessary roughness of the tube and rat
- The dog must be under control when leaving the ring (with or without leash)
- A participant can be disqualified if rules and regulations are not adhered to.
- A dog who destroys without really searching or soils a bale will be automatically eliminated
- A dog who destroys a bale while still searching could be eliminated, at the discretion of the judges.
- A financial penalty equal to the cost of the bale may be claimed from the participant whose dog destroys a bale
- When there are several rats to find, it is possible for the rat wrangler to stay inside the ring while the dog is searching. A participant can always request that the rat wrangler stays outside the ring.

3.6 Titles

Ribbons and/or rosettes will be given for qualifying scores and titles. A certificate will be given by the ASR for each title obtained.

Master Category: For Barn and Bush, the participant whose dog has obtained his Novice, Advanced, Expert or Champion title may, if he wishes, continue to compete at a given level even after obtaining its title. The Master category is optional and can be used for a dog that is not ready to compete at a higher level. In the same competition, a dog can run in the Master class while continuing its level in the regular class.

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See the titles chart in the addendums

INSTINCT TITLES:

- Brush(Broussailles - ICBR) and Barn (Grange - ICGR)
  - This title is granted to any novice dog that qualify in one of their first two trials ever attempted (actual trials or FEO) for each discipline. If unsuccessful, the dog will never be able to receive this title. This title is not a prerequisite for obtaining the Novice title.
- Go-to-ground (Chasse en terrier artificiel - ICTA)
  - This title is granted to any novice dog that qualify in one of their first three trials ever attempted (actual trial or FEO). If unsuccessful, the dog will never be able to receive this title. This title is not a prerequisite for obtaining the Novice title.

NOVICE TITLE: 3 Q in novice level
NCGR – NCBR – NCTA

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MASTER NOVICE TITLE : 13 Q in Novice Level
MNCGR – MNCBR

AVANCED TITLE: 4 Q in advanced level
ACGR – ACBR – ACTA

MASTER AVANCED TITLE : 14 Q in advanced level
MACGR – MACBR

EXPERT TITLE: 5 Q in expert level
ECGR – ECBR – ECTA

MASTER EXPERT TITLE : 15 Q in master level
MECGR – MECBR

CHAMPION TITLE: 7 Q in Champion level
ChCGR – ChCBR – ChCTA

MASTER CHAMPION TITLE : 17 Q in Champion level
ChCGR – ChCBR

GRAND CHAMPION TITLE: 8 Q in Grand Champion level
GChCGR – GChCBR
Starting January 1, 2025, the Grand Champion level will be optional. Members who have already accumulated Grand Champion qualifiers will have the opportunity to continue accumulating qualifiers to complete their title. This option will be valid for a maximum of 2 years, i.e. until December 31, 2026, then the accumulated qualifiers will be automatically transferred to the Master category to obtain the title of Master Champion and the Grand Champion level will no longer be offered.

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EXCELLENT TITLE: 10 Q in Excellent level
CGRX –CBRX –CTAX

EXCELLENT BRONZE TITLE: 15 Q in Excellent level
CGRXBr –CBRXBr –CTAXBR

EXCELLENT SILVER (ARGENT) TITLE: 20 Q in Excellent level
CGRXAr – CBRXAr –CTAXAr

EXCELLENT GOLD (OR) TITLE: 25 Q in Excellent level
CGRXOr – CBRXOr –CTAXOr

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OUTSTANDING HUNTER (CHASSEUR ÉMÉRITE) TITLE: 30 Q in Excellent level
CEmCGR – CEmCBR – CEmCTA

RELAY TITLE: 2 Q
REGR - REBR

RELAY BRONZE TITLE: 5 Q total
REGRBr - REBRBr

RELAY SILVER TITLE: 10 Q total
REGRAr - REBRAr

RELAY GOLD TITLE: 20 Q total
REGROr - REBROr

RELAY OUTSTANDING HUNTER TITLE: 40 Q total
REGREm - REBREm

COMBO TITLE: 2 Q
CO

COMBO BRONZE TITLE: 5 Q total
COBr

COMBO SILVER TITLE: 10 Q total
COAr

COMBO GOLD TITLE: 20 Q total
COOr

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COMBO OUTSTANDING HUNTER TITLE: 40 Q total
COEM

"4 by 4" TITLE: 2 Q
4 par 4

"4 by 4" BRONZE TITLE: 5 Q total
4 par 4Br

"4 by 4" SILVER TITLE: 10 Q total
4 par 4Ar

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“4 by 4“ GOLD TITLE: 20 Q total
4 par 4Or

“4 by 4“ OUTSTANDING HUNTER TITLE: 40 Q total
4 par 4Em

CHALLENGE (DÉFI) TITLE : 2 Q
DE

CHALLENGE (DÉFI) BRONZE TITLE: 5 Q total
DEBr

CHALLENGE (DÉFI) SILVER TITLE: 10 Q total
DEAr

CHALLENGE (DÉFI) GOLD TITLE: 20 Q total
DEOr

CHALLENGE (DÉFI) OUTSTANDING HUNTER TITLE: 40 Q total
DEEm

NOVICE RATISSAGE TITLE : 5 Q in Novice level
RATIno

ADVANCED RATISSAGE TITLE : 7 Q in advanced level
RATIav

EXPERT RATISSAGE TITLE : 10 Q in Expert level
RATIex

NOVICE GA-RAT-GE TITLE : 3 Q in Novice level
GRGN Int – GRGN Ext

ADVANCED GA-RAT-GE TITLE : 4 Q in advanced level
GRGA Int – GRGA Ext

EXPERT GA-RAT-GE TITLE : 5 Q in Expert level
GRGE Int – GRGE Ext

CHAMPION GA-RAT-GE TITLE : 7 Q in Champion level
GRGCh Int – GRGCh Ext

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CHAMPION BRONZE GA-RAT-GE TITLE : 12 Q in Champion level
GRGChBr Int – GRGChBr Ext

CHAMPION SILVER (ARGENT) GA-RAT-GE TITLE : 17 Q in Champion level
GRGChAr Int – GRGChAr Ext

CHAMPION GOLD (OR) GA-RAT-GE TITLE : 22 Q in Champion level
GRGChOr Int – GRGChOr Ext

CHAMPION SAPPHIR GA-RAT-GE TITLE : 30 Q in Champion level
GRGChSa Int – GRGChSa Ext

CHAMPION RUBY GA-RAT-GE TITLE : 38 Q in Champion level
GRGChRu Int – GRGChRu Ext

CHAMPION DIAMOND GA-RAT-GE TITLE : 46 Q in Champion level
GRGChDia Int – GRGChDia Ext

~~**OUTSTANDING CHAMPION GA-RAT-GE TITLE** : Interior and Exterior Gold Title~~
~~GRGChEm~~

NOVICE RAT-MOUFLAGE NOVICE TITLE: 120 points in Novice level
RMno

ADVANCED RAT-MOUFLAGE TITLE: 200 points in Advanced level
RMav

EXPERT RAT-MOUFLAGE TITLE: 300 points in Expert level
RMex

CHAMPION RAT-MOUFLAGE TITLE: 420 points in Champion level
RMch

CHAMPION BRONZE RAT-MOUFLAGE TITLE: 620 points in Champion level
RMchBr

CHAMPION SILVER RAT-MOUFLAGE TITLE : 820 points in Champion level
RMchAr

CHAMPION GOLD RAT-MOUFLAGE TITLE : 1020 points in Champion level
RMchOr

CHAMPION SAPPHIR RAT-MOUFLAGE TITLE : 1420 points in Champion level
RMchSa

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CHAMPION RUBY RAT-MOUFLAGE TITLE : 1820 points in Champion level
RMchRu

CHAMPION DIAMOND RAT-MOUFLAGE TITLE : 2220 points in Champion level
RMchDia

NOVICE RAT- BYRINTHE NOVICE TITLE: 120 points in Novice level
RBno

ADVANCED RAT- BYRINTHE TITLE: 200 points in Advanced level
RBav

EXPERT RAT- BYRINTHE TITLE: 300 points in Expert level
RBex

CHAMPION RAT- BYRINTHE TITLE: 420 points in Champion level
RBch

CHAMPION BRONZE RAT- BYRINTHE TITLE: 620 points in Champion level
RBchBr

CHAMPION SILVER RAT- BYRINTHE TITLE: 820 points in Champion level
RBchAr

CHAMPION GOLD RAT- BYRINTHE TITLE: 1020 points in Champion level
RBchOr

CHAMPION SAPPHIR RAT- BYRINTHE TITLE : 1420 points in Champion level
RBchSa

CHAMPION RUBY RAT- BYRINTHE TITLE : 1820 points in Champion level
RBchRu

CHAMPION DIAMOND RAT- BYRINTHE TITLE : 2220 points in Champion level
RBchDia

NOVICE RAT- HAUT NOVICE TITLE: 300 points in Novice level
RHno

ADVANCED RAT- HAUT TITLE: 400 points in Advanced level
RHav

EXPERT RAT- HAUT TITLE: 400 points in Expert level
RHex

CHAMPION RAT- HAUT TITLE: 500 points in Champion level
RHch

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EXCELLENT RAT- HAUT TITLE: 500 points in Excellent level
RHX

EXCELLENT BRONZE RAT- HAUT TITLE: 1000 points in Excellent level
RHXBr

EXCELLENT SILVER RAT- HAUT TITLE: 1500 points in Excellent level
RHX Ar

EXCELLENT GOLD RAT- HAUT TITLE: 2000 points in Excellent level
RHXOr

CHAMPION SAPPHIR RAT- HAUT TITLE : 2800 points in Champion level
RHchSa

CHAMPION RUBY RAT- HAUT TITLE : 3600 points in Champion level
RHchRu

CHAMPION DIAMOND RAT- HAUT TITLE : 4400 points in Champion level
RHchDia

3.7 Ribbons/Rosettes

Ribbons and/or rosettes will be given for qualifying scores and titles (including Instinct Title). The use of badges/medals is allowed in place of ribbons/rosettes provided that the full ASR logo is present as well as the event and placement and they must have been approved by the organization's Board of Directors.

For Barn, Brush and Go-to-ground, rosettes or general classification ribbons (all groups combined) will be given for overall first three places. Dogs entered in the Master category are not considered in the general placement.

It is at the organizing club discretion to:

- Give ribbons or rosettes for the individual groups' top three places.
- Give ribbons or rosettes for top three places in all other games.
- Add `Special' tag to any rosette earned by a dog with special condition (see Annex C)
- The use of badges, medals or other is allowed at all times if given along with ribbons/rosettes. If used in replacement of ribbons/rosettes, the association logo must be present as well as the placement and they must have been approved by the organization's Board of Director.

Only qualifying scores (Q) are eligible for official placement.

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4 BRUSH

4.1 Site specificities according to skill levels

4.1.1 Novice (and Instinct)

4.1.1.1 Construction parameters

4.1.1.1.1 Indoor or outdoor enclosure dimensions

- 200 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

4.1.1.1.2 Equipment and materials for indoor

- 7 to 9 bales of hay
- 1 stack

4.1.1.1.3 Equipment and materials for outdoor

- Site permitting branches, leaves, brush, holes, rocks or any natural material can be used to create decoys or hides
- All non-natural materials used, and especially 'human' materials (pallet, tire, trailer, etc.) must be safe for both dogs and humans.
- Otherwise use 7 to 9 bales in 1 stack as for indoor

4.1.1.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

4.1.2 Advanced

4.1.2.1 Construction parameters

4.1.2.1.1 Indoor or outdoor enclosure dimensions

- 300 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

4.1.2.1.2 Equipment and materials for indoor

- 11 to 15 bales of hay
- 2 stacks

4.1.2.1.3 Equipment and materials for outdoor

- Site permitting branches, leaves, brush, holes, rocks or any natural material can be used to create decoys or hides
- All non-natural materials used, and especially 'human' materials (pallet, tire, trailer, etc.) must be safe for both dogs and humans.
- Otherwise use 11 to 15 bales in 2 stacks as for indoor

4.1.2.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

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4.1.3 Expert

4.1.3.1 Construction parameters

4.1.3.1.1 Indoor or outdoor enclosure dimensions

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

4.1.3.1.2 Equipment and materials for indoor

- 20 to 25 bales of hay
- 5 stacks

4.1.3.1.3 Equipment and materials for outdoor

- Site permitting branches, leaves, brush, holes, rocks or any natural material can be used to create decoys or hides
- All non-natural materials used, and especially 'human' materials (pallet, tire, trailer, etc.) must be safe for both dogs and humans.
- Otherwise use 20 to 25 bales in 5 stacks as for indoor

4.1.3.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

4.1.4 Champion (and Grand Champion)

Note: Starting January 1, 2025, the Grand Champion level will be optional. Members who have already accumulated Grand Champion qualifiers will have the opportunity to continue accumulating qualifiers to complete their title. This option will be valid for a maximum of 2 years, i.e. until December 31, 2026, then the accumulated qualifiers will be automatically transferred to the Master category to obtain the title of Master Champion and the Grand Champion level will no longer be offered.

4.1.4.1 Construction parameters

4.1.4.1.1 Indoor or outdoor, if done as if in artificial area, enclosure dimensions

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

4.1.4.1.2 Outdoor enclosure dimensions in a natural environment

- 600 square feet
- Minimum of 20 feet in width

4.1.4.1.3 Equipment and materials for indoor

- 25 to 30 bales of hay
- 6 stacks

4.1.4.1.4 Equipment and materials for outdoor

- Site permitting branches, leaves, brush, holes, rocks or any natural material can be used to create decoys or hides

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- All non-natural materials used, and especially 'human' materials (pallet, tire, trailer, etc.) must be safe for both dogs and humans.
- Otherwise use 25 to 30 bales in 6 stacks as for indoor

4.1.4.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

4.1.5 Excellent

4.1.5.1 Construction parameters

4.1.5.1.1 Indoor or outdoor, if done as if in artificial area, enclosure dimensions

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

4.1.5.1.2 Outdoor enclosure dimensions in a natural environment

- 600 square feet
- Minimum of 20 feet in width

4.1.5.1.3 Equipment and materials for indoor

- 30 to 35 bales of hay
- 6 stacks minimum

4.1.5.1.4 Equipment and materials for outdoor

- Site permitting branches, leaves, brush, holes, rocks or any natural material can be used to create decoys or hides
- All non-natural materials used, and especially 'human' materials (pallet, tire, trailer, etc.) must be safe for both dogs and humans.
- Otherwise use 30 to 35 bales in a minimum of 6 stacks

4.1.5.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 3 rats, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

4.2 Regulations for all levels

4.2.1 Start box

4.2.1.1 Placement

- The box must be inside the enclosure
- Minimum distance of 5 feet from any stack

4.2.1.2 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

4.2.2 Enclosure fence

- Minimum height 3 feet

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- Made of material visible to the dog
- Anchored to the ground solidly enough so dogs cannot go under

4.2.3 Placement of rat tubes

- In Novice, Advanced and Expert, only one tube is used.
- In Champion (Grand Champion), two tubes are used.
- In Excellent, three tubes are used.
- At all times the tube(s) must be completely hidden at 360 degrees in both natural and artificial environments. It is (they are) therefore completely invisible to the participant and their dog.
- In Novice and Advanced only white tubes will be used. At Expert level and above, it is permitted to use white, black, gray or brown tubes. If colored tubes are used, they must be used for both rats and litter.
- Tube(s) must be accessible for all sizes dogs. Dog must be able to reach the tube(s) without having to destroy stack(s).
- Tube(s) must remain at the same location(s) for all teams in a given level
- In an artificial environment (indoor or outdoor), for Novice, Advanced end Expert levels, the tubes are placed on the ground, hidden between the bales and covered. For Champion (Grand Champion) level, the tubes can be placed in height, on a haystack, and not visible. For the Excellent level, at least one of the tubes must be placed in height, on a haystack, and not visible.
- In an artificial environment, for Novice and Advanced levels, the tube is buried 2'' and hidden by loose hay.
- In an artificial environment, for Champion (Grand Champion) level, the tube is buried 4'' to 6'' and hidden by packed hay. The less deep the tube is hidden, the more the hay covering it is packed.
- In an artificial environment, for Excellent level, the tube is buried 4'' to 6'' and hidden by packed hay. The less deep the tube is hidden, the more the hay covering it is packed.
- In a natural environment, for Novice and Advanced levels, all the tubes are buried in the ground. For Expert and above levels, possibility of placing the tubes at height (maximum 24'') if the terrain allows it in a safe manner for the rat and for the dog otherwise they will be buried in the ground.
- In a natural environment, if the land used is completely clear, it is possible to use hay bales and/or undone hay bales to cover the ground.
- Participant knows the tube(s) hide location prior to enter the ring

4.2.4 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations
- In a sanctionned trial, the dog must compete in its current level unless registered in Master category.
- A competing dog cannot do a For Exibit Only (FEO) hunt and a sanctionned hunt in the same competition

4.2.5 Entering the ring

- The dog must be under control with or without leash

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- For security reasons, the participant must wait at a safe distance from the gate for the previous team to leave the ring and for the judge and/or the gate to give the go-ahead before entering the ring

4.2.6 Praise and rewards

- Upon confirmation by the judge that the rat has been found, verbal and physical encouragements will be permitted but no treats or toys will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following teams.

4.2.7 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

- The judge stops time when he considers that the dog clearly and unequivocally demonstrates the presence of the rat through a significant change in behavior. A sustained indication time of 3 to 5 seconds is required for dogs whose indication is less obvious (pointing, freezing, nose touch, light scratching, etc.). The distance between the dog's nose and the tube should be less than 1 foot. For dogs whose marking is obvious (biting the tube, diving on the tube, intensely scratching the tube, etc.) the time of 3 to 5 seconds is not required to ensure the safety of the rat.
- Initially, and for a period varying depending on the level, only the dog is allowed to enter the field. The participant is entitled to a starting command and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise**. He must wait for the judge's permission to leave the box in order to help his dog.
- During the qualifying time remaining (depending on the level), the participant can join his dog and position himself near the tube to help him focus his search but must remain silent and is not allowed to point or to lean towards the tube.
- Under no circumstances may the participant touch his dog or the tube during qualifying time otherwise the team is disqualified.
- When the time allowed for a qualifying score has elapsed, and up to the total time allowed, the participant may touch his dog, speak, point and / or bend over to help him "find" the rat.
- A total of 2 minutes is allowed to find the rat.

4.2.8 Exiting the ring

- When leaving the ring, the dog must always be under control (with or without leash).

4.3 Scoring parameters for all levels

4.3.1 Qualifying score

The team will earn a qualifying score when the rat is identified, to the satisfaction of the judge, within the following parameters:

- Novice: 80 seconds (60 seconds without help)
- Advanced: 70 seconds (60 seconds without help)
- Expert: 60 seconds (no help)
- Champion (and Grand Champion) in artificial environment: 60 seconds (no help)
- Champion (and Grand Champion) in natural environment: 65 seconds (no help)
- Excellent in artificial environment: 80 seconds (no help)

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- Excellent in natural environment: 85 seconds (no help)

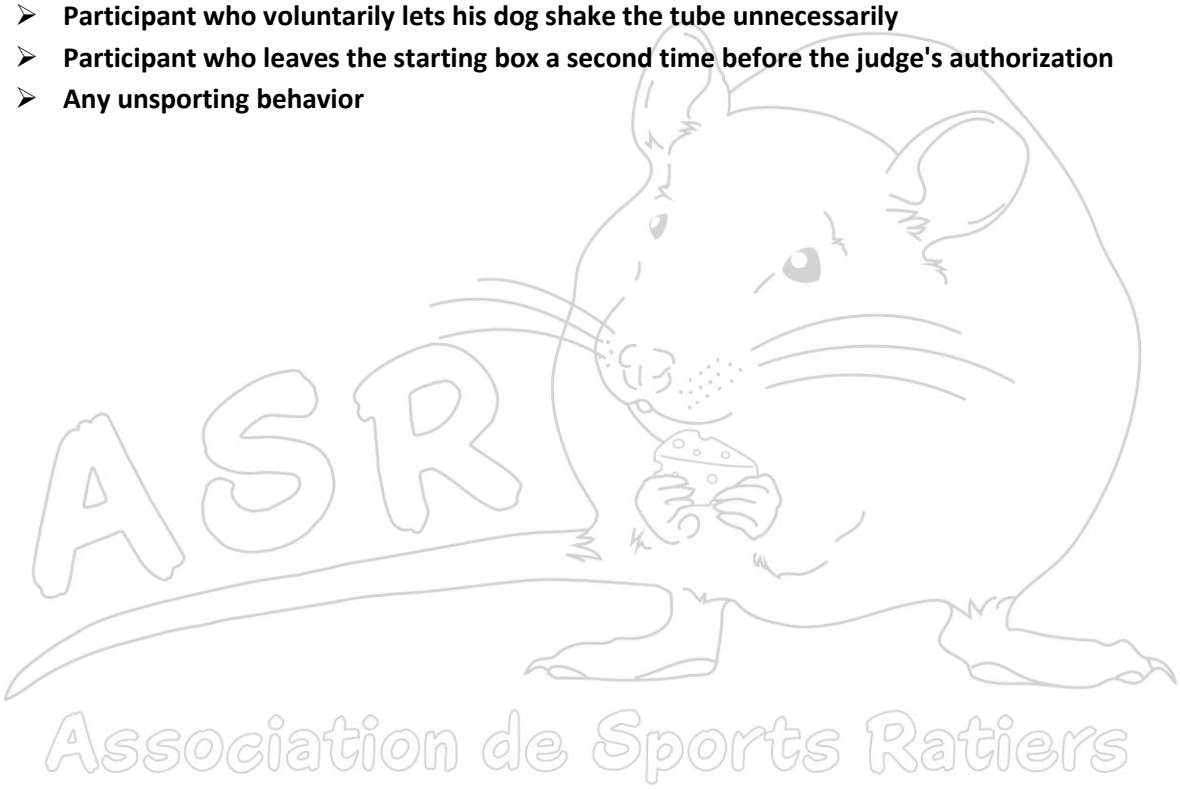
Note: An additional 15 secondes is added at the end of the qualifying time for veteran dogs

4.3.2 Non-qualifying score

- The team exceeds the time allowed per level to find the location of the rat to the satisfaction of the judge
- Participant who leaves the box for the first time before the judge's authorization

4.3.3 Disqualification

- **Touching the dog or the tube while in the ring without the judge's permission**
- **Talk or make noise without the judge's permission**
- **Participant who voluntarily lets his dog shake the tube unnecessarily**
- **Participant who leaves the starting box a second time before the judge's authorization**
- **Any unsporting behavior**



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5 BARN

5.1 Site specificities according to skill levels

5.1.1 Novice (and Instinct)

5.1.1.1 Construction parameters for indoor or outdoor enclosure

- 200 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in depth

5.1.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 7 to 9 bales of hay stacked up to 2 levels
- All in a straight line

5.1.1.3 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

5.1.1.4 Tube placement

- 3 tubes are to be used
    - 1 empty and odorless, 1 with litter and 1 with rat
    - The tube containing the rat can contain a cloth for the confort of the rat as long as it is clean as to not be confused with litter (see definition in section 2).
- Tubes must be visible and the front of the tubes must protrude approximately 1 inch from the front of the bales.
- Tubes must be at ground level
- Tubes may be anchored or not. If not anchored, one must ensure that the tube identification (empty, litter and rat) is discreet enough not to be visible to the participant if the dog completely pulls out the tube.
- The competing team does not know where the rat is

5.1.2 Advanced

5.1.2.1 Construction parameters for indoor or outdoor enclosure

- 300 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in depth

5.1.2.2 Equipment and materials

- 11 to15 bales of hay stacked up to 2 levels minimum
- All in a straight line

5.1.2.3 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

5.1.2.4 Tube placement

- 4 tubes are to be used

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- 1 empty and odorless, 2 with litter and 1 with rat
- The tube containing the rat can contain a cloth for the confort of the rat as long as it is clean as to not be confused with litter (see definition in section 2).

- Tubes must be visible and the front of the tubes must be aligned with the front of the bales (not protruding).
- Tubes must be at ground level
- Tubes may be anchored or not. If not anchored, one must ensure that the tube identification (empty, litter and rat) is discreet enough not to be visible to the participant if the dog completely pulls out the tube.
- The competing team does not know where the rat is

5.1.3 Expert

5.1.3.1 Construction parameters for indoor or outdoor enclosure

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in depth

5.1.3.2 Equipment and materials

- 20 to 25 bales of hay stacked up to 3 levels
- Set in an L shape configuration or 2 separate lines

5.1.3.3 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

5.1.3.4 Tube placement

- 6 tubes are to be used
  - 4 with litter and 2 with rats
  - Tubes containing a rat can contain a cloth for the confort of the rat as long as it is clean as to not be confused with litter (see definition in section 2).
- Tubes must be visible and the front of the tubes must be imbedded 1 inch from the front of the bales.
- Tubes must be placed not higher than a haystack
- Tubes must be spread over two levels (on the ground and on the top of the first row of haystacks).
  - At least two of the tubes will be placed in height.
  - The rats can be 2 on the ground, 2 in height or 1 on each level.
- Tubes may be anchored or not. If not anchored, one must ensure that the tube identification (empty, litter and rat) is discreet enough not to be visible to the participant if the dog completely pulls out the tube.
- The competing team does not know where the rats are

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5.1.4 Champion (and Grand Champion)

Note: Starting January 1, 2025, the Grand Champion level will be optional. Members who have already accumulated Grand Champion qualifiers will have the opportunity to continue accumulating qualifiers to complete their title. This option will be valid for a maximum of 2 years, i.e. until December 31, 2026, then the accumulated qualifiers will be automatically transferred to the Master category to obtain the title of Master Champion and the Grand Champion level will no longer be offered.

5.1.4.1 Construction parameters for indoor or outdoor enclosure

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 15 feet in depth

5.1.4.2 Equipment and materials

- 25 to 30 bales of hay stacked up to 3 levels
- Possible configurations:
    - All bales in a U shape with a minimum width of 12 feet
    - 2 distinct "L" shapes separated by a minimum of 5 feet
    - 3 straight lines on 3 sides of the enclosure
    - 'T' shape

5.1.4.3 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

5.1.4.4 Tube placement

- 7 or 8 tubes are to be used
    - 5 or 6 with litter and 2 with rats
    - Tubes containing a rat can contain a cloth for the confort of the rat as long as it is clean as to not be confused with litter (see definition in section 2).
- Tubes must be visible and the front of the tubes must be imbedded 2 inches from the front of the bales.
- Tubes must be placed not higher than a haystack
- Tubes must be spread over two levels (on the ground and on the top of the first row of haystacks).
    - The rats can be both on the ground, both in height or 1 on each level.
- Tubes may be anchored or not. If not anchored, one must ensure that the tube identification (empty, litter and rat) is discreet enough not to be visible to the participant if the dog completely pulls out the tube.
- The competing team does not know where the rats are

5.1.5 Excellent

5.1.5.1 Construction parameters for indoor or outdoor enclosure

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 15 feet in depth

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5.1.5.2 Equipment and materials

- 30 to 35 bales of hay stacked up to 3 levels
- Possible configurations:
  - All bales in the shape of a double “L” (2 “L” back to back) with a minimum of one bale placed at the end to form a large “T”.
  - A double "U"
  - An "H"

5.1.5.3 Sex and quantity of rats

- 3 rats, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

5.1.5.4 Tube placement

- 9 to 11 tubes are to be used
  - 6 to 8 with litter and 3 with rats
  - Tubes containing a rat can contain a cloth for the confort of the rat as long as it is clean as to not be confused with litter (see definition in section 2).
- Tubes must be visible and the front of the tubes must be imbedded 2 inches from the front of the bales.
- Tubes must be placed not higher than a haystack
- Tubes must be spread over two levels: on the ground and on the top of the first row of hay bales and distributer on the different sides according to the chosen arrangement.
  - The rats can be all on the ground, all in height or some on each level.
- Tubes may be anchored or not. If not anchored, one must ensure that the tube identification (empty, litter and rat) is discreet enough not to be visible to the participant if the dog completely pulls out the tube.
- The competing team does not know where the rats are

5.2 Regulations for all levels

5.2.1 The start box

5.2.1.1 Placement

- The box must be inside the enclosure

5.2.1.2 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

5.2.2 Enclosure fence

- Minimum height 3 feet
- Made of material visible to the dog
- Anchored to the ground solidly enough so dogs cannot go under

5.2.3 Placement of rat tubes

- As previously stated in the area specifics

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- Can be changed between competing teams to ensure competitors do not know the placement(s) of the rat tube(s)

5.2.4 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations
- In a sanctionned trial, the dog must compete in its current level unless registered in Master category.
- A competing dog cannot do a For Exibit Only (FEO) hunt and a sanctionned hunt in the same competition

5.2.5 Entering the ring

- The dog must be under control with or without leash
- For security reasons, the participant must wait at a safe distance from the gate for the previous team to leave the ring and for the judge and/or the gate to give the go-ahead before entering the ring

5.2.6 Praise and rewards

- Upon confirmation by the judge that the rat has been found, verbal and physical encouragements will be permitted but no treats or toys will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following teams.

5.2.7 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

- The tubes are hidden between the haystacks, visible to the participant and the judge. Their number varies according to the level: see table in section 5.3.
- In Novice and Avanced only white tubes will be used. At Expert level and above, it is allowed to use white, black, gray or brown tubes. If colored tubes are used, they must be used for rats(s) as well as litter.
- The participant and his dog enter the ring together.
- The team has 90 seconds to find the number of rats as determined by the level.
- The participant must remain silent and must not make any noise. He can accompany his dog during qualifying time 'without help from the participant'. During the unassisted period, if the participant decides to accompany his dog, he must stay behind (follow) or at the height of his dog. In no case can he steer his dog or bait him by waiting near the tubes. Such behavior on the part of the participant will result in disqualification. Upon the judge signaling the start of the “With help” time the handler can talk and point at the tubes
- It is the participant's responsibility to tell the judge that his dog has found the rat by clearly saying "RAT” and / or raising a hand to stop time.
- The judge will confirm if the correct tube is identified otherwise he will say "NO" and the time will continue; the participant can continue until the maximum time but will not be qualified
- For Expert, Champion (Grand Champion) and Excellent levels, as there is more than one rat to find, after confirming that the rat is in the identified tube, the handler must regain control of their dog and return to the start box while the identified tube with a rat is removed from the ring. The handler must wait for the judge's OK before releasing his dog to find the next rat.

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- Time stops as soon as a rat is found and starts again when the dog is released
- If the dog finds another rat while the time is stopped, this find does not count. The participant must still bring his dog back into the predetermined space and wait for the judge's OK to release his dog. The dog must return to mark the next rat.
- The participant has the right to give again a verbal command when he releases his dog
- **Any loss of control of the dog while the rat is being removed leads to automatic disqualification**

- The handler will be disqualified if he ever touches his dog or a tube during the qualifying time of the hunt.
- When the qualifying time is up, if the dog has not found all the rats, an additional 30 seconds will be alloted to enable the team practice time in finding the remaining rats. This additional time if for practice purposes only and will not count for any qualification. During this practice time the handler can urge his dog to touch and smell the tubes where the rats are. It is permitted to encourage and reward physically and verbally the dog to search and touch the tubes. However, no treats or toys will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following competitors

5.2.8 Leaving the ring

- When leaving the ring, the dog must be under control at all time (with or without leash).

5.3 Scoring parameters for all levels

Level	Number of tubes			Qualifying time (90'')		Non qualifying	Specifics by level
	Rat	Litter	Empty	Without handler help	With handler help	Practice	
Novice	1	1	1*	30''	60''	30''	* Empty tube must be completely odorless Improper identification = elimination
Advanced	1	2	1*	45''	45''	30''	* Empty tube must be completely odorless Improper identification = elimination
Expert	2	4	0	60''	30''	30''	Improper identification = elimination
Champion Grand Champion	2	5-6	0	75''	15''	30''	Improper identification = elimination
Excellent	3	6-8	0	80''	10''	30''	Improper identification = elimination

Note: An additional 15 secondes is added at the end of the qualifying time for veteran dogs

5.3.1 Disqualification

- **Touching the dog or the tube while in the ring without the judge's permission**
- **Talk or make noise without the judge's permission**
- **Participant who voluntarily lets his dog shake the tube unnecessarily**
- **Participant who leaves the starting box before the judge's authorization**
- **Lost control of the dog while a rat is removed from the ring**
- **Any unsporting behavior**

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6 GO-TO-GROUND

6.1 Site specificities according to skill levels

6.1.1 Novice (and Instinct)

6.1.1.1 Tunnel

- 12 feet total length
- One 90-degree angle
- No dead-ends
- Angles must be in total darkness

6.1.1.2 Construction parameters of the entrance area

- The entrance enclosure measures 5 ft x 5 ft
- Built in such a way that the dog cannot reach the exit by any other means than going through the tunnel.

6.1.1.3 Sex of rats

- Only one rat is used
- Rats of the same sex must be used throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors

6.1.1.4 Start line

- The start line is directly in front and 6 inches away from the tunnel entrance

6.1.1.5 Tunnel entrance and exit

- If the dog backs out of the tunnel, the handler can touch and/or lift the dog to realign toward the tunnel
- At no time can the handler cross the start line without the judge's authorization
- Once released and up until it has started to mark the rat for the first time, the dog can enter and exit the tunnel any number of time.

6.1.2 Advanced

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6.1.2.1 Tunnel

- 16 feet total length
- Two 90-degree angles
- No dead-ends
- Angles must be in total darkness

6.1.2.2 Construction parameters of the entrance area

- The entrance enclosure measures 5 ft x 5 ft
- Built in such a way that the dog cannot reach the exit by any other means than going through the tunnel.

6.1.2.3 Sex of rats

- Only one rat is used

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- Rats of the same sex must be used throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors

6.1.2.4 Start line

- The start line is directly in front and 12 inches away from the tunnel entrance

6.1.2.5 Tunnel entrance and exit

- If the dog backs out of the tunnel, the handler can encourage his dog, point to the tunnel but the handler cannot touch and/or lift the dog to realign toward the tunnel
- At no time can the handler cross the start line without the judge's authorization
- Once released and up until it has started to mark the rat for the first time, the dog can enter / exit only once

6.1.3 Expert

6.1.3.1 Tunnel

- 24 feet total length
- Three 90-degree angles
- No dead-ends
- Angles must be in total darkness

6.1.3.2 Construction parameters of the entrance area

- The entrance enclosure measures 10 ft x 10 ft
- Built in such a way that the dog cannot reach the exit by any other means than going through the tunnel.

6.1.3.3 Sex of rats

- Only one rat is used
- Rats of the same sex must be used throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors

6.1.3.4 Start line

- The start line is directly in front and 18 inches away from the tunnel entrance

6.1.3.5 Tunnel entrance and exit

- Once released, the dog cannot back out of the tunnel.
- At no time can the handler cross the start line without the judge's authorization. The handler can not talk nor point to the tunnel entrance.

6.1.4 Champion

6.1.4.1 Tunnel

- 24 feet total length
- Three 90-degree angles
- No dead-ends
- Angles must be in total darkness

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6.1.4.2 Construction parameters of the entrance area

- The entrance enclosure measures 12 ft x 12 ft
- Built in such a way that the dog cannot reach the exit by any other means than going through the tunnel.

6.1.4.3 Sex of rats

- Only one rat is used
- Rats of the same sex must be used throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors

6.1.4.4 Start line

- The start line is 24 inches away from the tunnel entrance and at a 90-degree angle to the tunnel entrance

6.1.4.5 Tunnel entrance and exit

- Once released, the dog cannot back out of the tunnel.
- At no time can the handler cross the start line without the judge's authorization. The handler can not talk nor point to the tunnel entrance.

6.1.5 Excellent

6.1.5.1 Tunnel

- 28 feet total length
- Four 90-degree angles
- One dead-end
- Angles and dead end must be in total darkness

6.1.5.2 Construction parameters of the entrance area

- The entrance enclosure measures 15 ft x 15 ft
- Built in such a way that the dog cannot reach the exit by any other means than going through the tunnel.

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6.1.5.3 Sex of rats

- Only one rat is used
- Rats of the same sex must be used throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors

6.1.5.4 Start line

- The start line is 48 inches away from the tunnel entrance and at angle from the tunnel entrance. Angle is at judge's discretion.

6.1.5.5 Tunnel entrance and exit

- Once released, the dog cannot back out of the tunnel.
- At no time can the handler cross the start line without the judge's authorization. The handler can not talk nor point to the tunnel entrance.

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6.2 Regulations for all levels

6.2.1 Tunnels

- The interior must measure 10-inch x 10-inch (+/- 1 inch)
- Built out of opaque and solid material, preferably wood, well sanded and free of any splinters or sharp cuts.
- The interior must be smooth.
- Made of panels on three sides and solidly joined
- Junction boxes or joints must be opaque and solid enough to not move during a run.
    - If the joints are not completely opaque other materials can be used to obtain complete darkness such as blankets, hay etc.
- The end of the tunnel must have an exit trap of 12 inches minumum attached to the tunnel with hinges and a latch.
- The end of the tunnel must be closed off with solid PVC tubes or replaceable wooden pegs.
- Can be taken apart in sections of 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 feet
- Set on a non-slip surface that will not change texture during the competition and produce none or very little dust.

6.2.2 The course

6.2.2.1 Angles

The 90-degree angles must always be placed leading away from the entrance area.

6.2.2.2 Dead end

In Excellent, the course must include one dead-end. The dead-end cannot be longer than one section (3 to 8 feet). The end of the dead-end must be closed and opaque.

6.2.2.3 Visibility of the rat

The rat cage must not be visible from the start line enclosure. If necessary, a blind must be erected around the tunnel to block the sight of the cage (bales, tarp, etc.)

6.2.3 Start line enclosure

- Closed enclosure respecting the criterias and dimensions specified under each levels. The area cannot be smaller than 5 feet x 5 feet.
    - Refer to the summary chart in the appendix
- The start end of the tunnel is within the enclosure by 1 to 3 feet.
- A starting line or marker drawn on the groung identifies the prescribed position between the dog's release location and the tunnel entrance.
    - Refer to the summary chart in the appendix

6.2.4 Ring fence

- Minimum height 3 feet
- Made of material visible to the dog
- Anchored to the ground solidly enough so dogs cannot go under

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6.2.5 Location of the rat cage

- At the tunnel exit
- Held by the judge who moves it slowly and non-stop and/or who makes noises to incite the dog to mark the rat for the prescribed time

6.2.6 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations
- The dog must not be taller than 15 inches at the shoulder in order to navigate the tunnel safely
- In a sanctionned trial, the dog must compete in its current level.
- A competing dog cannot do a For Exibit Only (FEO) hunt and a sanctionned hunt in the same competition

6.2.7 Entering the ring and releasing the dog

- The dog must be under control (with or without leash)
- For security reasons, the participant must wait at a safe distance from the gate for the previous team to leave the ring and for the judge and/or the gate to give the go-ahead before entering the ring
- The dog's nose must be behind the start line.

6.2.8 Identifying the location of the rat.

- The handler can give a release command and then must remain in the start box, neither talking nor making any sounds while the dog is in the tunnel. The handler must wait for the judge's authorization to leave the entrance area to retrieve his dog.
- The time starts as the dog is released.
- The time is stopped when the dog arrives, for the first time, at approximately 10 inches from the end of the tunnel.
- The dog can mark his find by barking, scratching and/or staring at the rat.

6.2.9 Exiting the tunnel

- When the judge announces that the allotted time is up, the handler must leave the exit area and retrieve his dog through the trap door at the end of the tunnel.
- The dog must be under control (with or without leash) while leaving the exit area.

Note: A protected area will be needed around the tunnel exit if the whole competing area is not secured by a fence.

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6.3 Scoring parameters for all levels

6.3.1 Qualifying score

The team will merit a qualifying score when the dog:

- Reaches the rat cage whithin the following allotted times
  - Starter: 36 seconds
  - Advanced: 32 seconds
  - Expert: 36 seconds
  - Champion: 36 seconds
  - Excellent: 40 seconds
- Maintains his marking for the following duration
  - Starter: 20 seconds
  - Advanced: 40 seconds
  - Expert: 60 seconds
  - Champion: 60 seconds
  - Excellent: 60 seconds

6.3.2 Non-qualifying score

- The alloted time runs out before the dog finds or reaches the rat cage
- The dog does not maintain his marking of the rat for the duration required for its level.
- For all levels, with the exception of Novice, the dog backs out of the tunnel more often than allowed for his level.
  - Refer to the summary chart in the appendix.

6.3.3 Disqualification

- Push and/or force the dog into the tunnel.
- Tap/bang on the tunnel to get the dog to enter.
- Talk or make noises without the authorization of the judge.
- Failure to respect (handler or dog) the start line.
- Non-compliance with the 'tunnel entry/exit' conditions for its level.
- **Dog attacking the judge upon exiting the tunnel.**

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7 BRUSH RELAY

7.1 Site specificities

The relay event takes place in the Expert level brush enclosure. It takes place only in an artificial environment (hay bales).

7.1.1 Construction parameters

7.1.1.1 Size of ring inside or outside

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 15 feet in width

7.1.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 20 to 25 bales of hay
- Minimum of 5 stacks

7.1.1.3 Sex and number of rats

- 2 rats males and / or females are used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition or ensure fairplay to all competitors

7.2 Regulations

7.2.1 The start boxes

7.2.1.1 Quantity

- Two (2) distinct boxes

7.2.1.2 Placement

- Both boxes must be inside the ring
- Both boxes will be placed along the ring fence with a minimum distance of 5 feet between the two

7.2.1.3 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

7.2.2 Ring fence

- Minimum height 3 feet
- Made of material visible to the dog
- Anchored to the ground solidly enough so dogs cannot go under

7.2.3 Placement of rat tubes

- Both tubes are hidden, invisible to participant and dog
- Tubes used can be white, black, gray or brown
- The tubes cannot be located closer than 5 feet from any start box
- The tubes must be accessible to dogs of all sizes without the dog having to demolish the stack to reach the rat.
- The tubes remain in the same location for all teams

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- The tubes can be placed on the ground or on top of a hay bale.
- The tubes are buried 2'' to 4'' and hidden by packed hay
- The participants are aware of the location of the rats before entering the ring.

7.2.4 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations
- Dogs of all levels can register in relay but the game is mainly aimed at Expert level dogs or above

7.2.5 Entering the ring

- Both teams (handler/dog) enter the ring at the same time. Each team takes position in one of the start boxes.
- The choice of start boxes and which dog will run first is up to the participating handlers
- The dog must be under control (with or without leash) when they are not actively hunting
- For security reasons, the participants must wait at a safe distance from the gate for the previous teams to leave the ring and for the judge and/or the gate to give the go-ahead before entering the ring

7.2.6 Praise and reward

- Upon confirmation by the judge that a rat has been identified, verbal and physical encouragements will be permitted but no treats or toys will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following teams.
- Under no circumstance can the dog hunting be encouraged by any of the team partner.

7.2.7 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

- The participating teams have a total of 1 minute to find both rats.
- Only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area. The handler is entitled to a start command and then must remain in the start box, **silently and without making any noise.**
- The judge stops the timer when he considers that the dog has clearly identified the location of the rat (as defined in section 4.2.7, Brush rules)
- When the timer is stopped, the handler must quickly retrieve his dog and return to his start box. Once in the starting box with his dog under control, he tells his teammate that it is his turn.
- Found rat is removed from the ring during the relay of the teams
- The judge will signal when the following handler can release his dog. Time starts again when the second dog leaves its starting box
- The other team handler must remain silent while the dog is working
- Selection of the participating teams is up to the handlers
- A participant does not necessarily need to own the dog he handles as long as he can control the dog while in the ring
- The same dog cannot find both rats. **Each team must find a rat.**
- There will be no penalty if a dog finds the second rat in the time it takes to the handler to retrieve the dog. The judge will properly replace the second rat where it was and make sure that it is properly hidden before allowing the release of the second dog

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- The judge will mention the lapsed time at 30 seconds if the first dog still hasn't find a rat. The participants will then have the option to change team. The timer will not be stopped during the transition. Security rules must still be applied, one dog at a time in the ring and the second handler can not release his dog before the first one has signaled that his dog is under control. This change of searching dog is permitted but optional. Once a rat is found, if time allow, the first dog must be released again to try finding the other rat.

N.B. A dog cannot be on two different teams during the same trial because the locations of the rats remain the same for all teams.

7.2.8 Leaving the ring

- When leaving the ring, dogs must be under control (with or without leash)

7.3 Scoring parameters

7.3.1 Qualifying score

- Both teams will earn a qualifying score when the rats are identified, to the satisfaction of the judge, within 60 seconds (no help)
- Cumulative and titles are done individually by dog

7.3.2 Non-qualifying score

- The allotted time runs out before the teams have found both rats
- A handler releases his dog before the signal from the judge

7.3.3 Disqualification

- **Talking or making noise without the judge's authorization**
- **Participant who lets his dog shake the tube unneccessarily**
- **A dog that 'escapes' his handlers hold while waiting in the start box**
- **Any loss of control of a dog while the rat found is being removed from the ring**
- **Any unsporting behavior**

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8 BARN RELAY

8.1 Site specificities

The relay event takes place in the Excellent level barn enclosure.

8.1.1 Construction parameters

8.1.1.1 Size of ring inside or outside

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 15 feet in width

8.1.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 25 to 35 bales of hay stacked up to 3 levels
- Possible configurations:
    - All bales in the shape of a double “L” (2 “L” back to back) with a minimum of one bale placed at the end to form a large “T”.
    - A double "U"
    - A "H"
    - The set-up does not need to be along the perimeter fences

8.1.1.3 Sex and number of rats

- 2 rats males and / or females are used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition or ensure fairplay to all competitors

8.2 Regulations

8.2.1 The start boxes

8.2.1.1 Quantity

- Two distinct boxes

8.2.1.2 Placement

- Both boxes must be inside the ring
- Both boxes will be placed along the ring fence with a minimum distance of 5 feet between the two

8.2.1.3 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

8.2.2 Ring fence

- Minimum height 3 feet
- Made of material visible to the dog
- Anchored to the ground solidly enough so dogs cannot go under

8.2.3 Placement of rat tubes

- 8 tubes are to be used
    - 6 with litter and 2 with rats

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- Tubes containing a rat can contain a cloth for the confort of the rat as long as it is clean as to not be confused with litter (see definition in section 2).

- Tubes must be visible and the front of the tubes must be imbedded 2 inches minimum from the front of the bales.
- Tubes must be placed not higher than a haystack
- Tubes must be spread over two levels: on the ground and on the top of the first row of hay bales and distributer on the different sides according to the chosen arrangement.
  - The rats can be all on the ground, all in height or one on each level.
- Tubes may be anchored or not. If not anchored, one must ensure that the tube identification (empty, litter and rat) is discreet enough not to be visible to the participant if the dog completely pulls out the tube.
- Tubes used can be white, black, gray or brown however, if used colored tubes must be used for both rats and litter
- The competing team does not know where the rats are
- The tubes cannot be located closer than 5 feet from any start box

8.2.4 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations
- Dogs of all levels can register in relay but the game is mainly aimed at Expert level dogs or above

8.2.5 Entering the ring

- Both teams (handler/dog) enter the ring at the same time. Each team takes position in one of the start boxes.
- The choice of start boxes and which dog will run first is up to the participating handlers
- The dog must be under control (with or without leash) when they are not actively hunting
- For security reasons, the participants must wait at a safe distance from the gate for the previous teams to leave the ring and for the judge and/or the gate to give the go-ahead before entering the ring

8.2.6 Praise and reward

- Upon confirmation by the judge that a rat has been identified, verbal and physical encouragements will be permitted but no treats or toys will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following teams.
- Under no circumstance can the dog hunting be encouraged by any of the team partner.

8.2.7 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

- The participating teams have a total of 1 minute to find both rats.
- As per regular Barn, the participant must remain silent and must not make any noise. He can accompany his dog during the search but he must stay behind (follow) or at the height of his dog. In no case can he steer his dog or bait him by waiting near the tubes. Such behavior on the part of the participant will result in immediate team disqualification.
- It is the participant's responsibility to tell the judge that his dog has found the rat by clearly saying "RAT" and / or raising a hand to stop time.

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- The judge will confirm if the correct tube is identified and will stop the timer, otherwise he will say "NO" and the team will be disqualified
    - If the first participant identifies the wrong tube, the juge may, at his discretion, still allow the second teammate to let his dog search for a rat if the total time (1 minute) has not expired
- When the timer is stopped, the handler must quickly retrieve his dog and return to his start box. Once in the starting box with his dog under control, he tells his teammate that it is his turn.
- Found rat is removed from the ring during the relay of the teams
- The judge will signal when the following handler can release his dog. Time starts again when the second dog leaves its starting box
- The other team handler must remain silent while the dog is working
- Selection of the participating teams is up to the handlers
- A participant does not necessarily need to own the dog he handles as long as he can control the dog while in the ring
- The same dog cannot find both rats. **Each team must find a rat.**
- There will be no penalty if a dog finds the second rat in the time it takes to the handler to retrieve the dog. The judge will properly replace the second rat where it was before allowing the release of the second dog
- The judge will mention the lapsed time at 30 seconds if the first dog still hasn't find a rat. The participants will then have the option to change team. The timer will not be stopped during the transition. Security rules must still be applied, one dog at a time in the ring and the second handler can not release his dog before the first one has signaled that his dog is under control. This change of searching dog is permitted but optional. Once a rat is found, if time allow, the first dog must be released again to try finding the other rat.

N.B. A dog cannot be on two different teams during the same trial

8.2.8 Leaving the ring

- When leaving the ring, dogs must be under control (with or without leash)

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8.3 Scoring parameters

8.3.1 Qualifying score

- Both teams will earn a qualifying score when the rats are identified within 60 seconds
- Cumulative and titles are done individually by dog

8.3.2 Non-qualifying score

- The allotted time runs out before the teams have found both rats
- A handler releases his dog before the signal from the judge

8.3.3 Disqualification

- **Talking or making noise without the judge's authorization**
- **Participant who lets his dog shake the tube unneccessarily**
- **A dog that 'escapes' his handlers hold while waiting in the start box**

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- **Any loss of control of a dog while the rat found is being removed from the ring**
- **Any unsporting behavior**

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9 '' 4 BY 4''

9.1 Site specificities

Similar to the relay, the ''4 BY 4'' takes place in a master level Brush ring. It takes place only in an artificial environment (hay bales). The ''4 BY 4'' is similar to the Brush relay but each team as 4 participants.

9.1.1 Construction parameters

9.1.1.1 Size of ring inside or outside

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 15 feet in width

9.1.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 25 to 35 bales of hay
- A minimum of 6 stacks

9.1.1.3 Sex and number of rats

- 4 rats males and / or females. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitors

9.2 Regulations

9.2.1 The start box

9.2.1.1 Placement

- Box must be inside the ring
- Must have a minimum distance of 3 feet from hay stacks

9.2.1.2 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

9.2.2 Ring fence

- Minimum height 3 feet
- Made of material visible to the dog
- Anchored to the ground solidly enough so dogs cannot go under

9.2.3 Placement of rat tubes

- 8 tubes are to be used
    - 4 with litter and 4 with rats
    - Tubes containing a rat can contain a cloth for the confort of the rat as long as it is clean as to not be confused with litter (see definition in section 2).
- All 8 tubes are hidden, invisible to participants and dogs
- Tube locations can be on the ground or no higher than a bale of hay.
- Tubes used can be white, black, gray or brown however, if used colored tubes must be used for both rats and litter
- Tubes cannot be located closer than 5 feet from the start box

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- Tubes must be accessible to dogs of all sizes without the dog having to demolish the stack to reach the rat.
- Tubes remain in the same location for all teams
- Participant are aware of the locations of the rats before entering the ring.

9.2.4 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations
- Dogs of all levels can participate but the game is mainly aimed at Expert level dogs or above
- A competing dog cannot do a For Exibit Only (FEO) hunt and a sanctionned hunt in the same competition
- A dog can not compete in more than one team in any given trial

9.2.5 Entering the ring

- The team members (dog/handler) take turns in the starting box.
- The team's order of passage is at the discretion of the participants.
- Team members who are not in the ring must wait outside the fence but at a distance of less than 5 feet.
- The dogs must always be under control (with or without leash) when not searching.
- For security reasons, the participants must wait at a safe distance from the gate for the previous teams to leave the ring and for the judge and/or the gate to give the go-ahead before entering the ring

9.2.6 Praise and reward

- Upon confirmation by the judge that the rat has been identified, quick verbal and physical encouragements is allowed but no treats or toys will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following teams.
- Under no circumstance can the dog hunting be encouraged by any of the team partners.

9.2.7 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

- The participating teams have a total of 2 minutes to find all 4 rats.
- Only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area. The handler is entitled to a start command and then must remain in the start box, **silently and without making any noise.**
- The judge stops the timer when he considers that the dog has clearly identified the location of the rat (as defined in section 4.2.7, Brush rules)
- When the timer is stopped, the handler must quickly retrieve his dog and leave the ring with his dog under control (with or without leash) and let the following participating team member enter.
- Found rat is removed from the ring during the relay of team members
- The judge will signal when the following handler can release his dog. Time starts again when the dog's four legs are out of the starting box
- The other team members must remain silent while a dog is working
- Selection of the participating teams is up to the handlers

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- A participant does not necessarily need to own the dog he handles as long as he can control the dog while in the ring
- The same dog cannot find more than one rat. **Each team member must find a rat.**
- There will be no penalty if a dog finds a second rat in the time it takes to the handler to retrieve the dog. The judge will return the rat to the same location and make sure that it is properly hidden before allowing the release of the next dog
- The judge will mention the lapsed time every 30 seconds if the dog in the ring still hasn't find a rat. The participants will then have the option to change team. The timer will not be stopped during the transition. Security rules must still be applied, one dog at a time in the ring. This possibility of changing team is optional and can be done only once.
- If the allotted time runs out and not all 4 rats have been found, the team must leave the ring and other members will not have the opportunity to compete.

Note: A dog cannot be on two different teams during the same trial.

9.2.8 Leaving the ring

- When leaving the ring, dogs must be under control (with or without leash)

9.3 Scoring parameters

9.3.1 Qualifying score

- All four team members will earn a qualifying score when the rats are identified, to the satisfaction of the judge, within the alloted time of 2 minutes (no help)
- Cumulative and titles are done individually by dog

9.3.2 Non-qualifying score

- The allotted time runs out before the teams have found all the rats
- A handler releases his dog before the signal from the judge

9.3.3 Disqualification

- **Talk or make sounds without the judge's authorization**
- **Participant who lets his dog shake the tube unneccessarily**
- **Any unsporting behavior**

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10 COMBO

10.1 Site specificities

The Combo is a combination of Barn and Brush. It takes place in a master level Brush ring. It takes place only in an artificial environment (hay bales).

10.1.1 Construction parameters

10.1.1.1 Size of ring inside or outside

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 15 feet in width

10.1.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 25 to 35 bales of hay
- One station of 8 to 10 bales set in a straight line on two levels (barn style)
- A minimum of 5 stacks (brush style)

10.1.1.3 Sex and number of rats

- 3 rats males and / or females. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitors

10.2 Regulations

10.2.1 The start box

10.2.1.1 Placement

- The box must be inside the enclosure
- At minimum of 5 feet from any hay stack

10.2.1.2 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

10.2.2 Displacement Boxes

10.2.2.1 Placements

- Both boxes must be inside the enclosure

10.2.2.2 Dimensions

- 2 feet wide by 2 feet deep

10.2.3 Enclosure fence

- Minimum height 3 feet
- Made of material visible to the dog
- Anchored to the ground solidly enough so dogs cannot go under

10.2.4 Placement of rat tubes

- 9 tubes are to be used
    - 6 with litter and 3 with rats

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- Tubes containing a rat can contain a cloth for the confort of the rat as long as it is clean as to not be confused with litter (see definition in section 2).
- Tubes used can be white, black, gray or brown however, if used colored tubes must be used for both rats and litter

- Barn section:
  - Tubes must be visible and the front of the tubes must be imbedded 2 inches from the front of the bales.
  - Tubes must be placed not higher than a haystack
  - Tubes must be spread over two levels (on the ground and on the top of the first row of haystacks).
- Brush section:
  - Tubes are completely hidden from sight.
  - Tubes must be accessible for all sizes dogs. Dog must be able to reach the tubes without having to destroy stacks.
  - Tubes are placed on the ground or in height, on a haystack, hidden between the bales and covered with packed hay. Tubes must be embedded 2'' to 4''
- Participants do not know the location of the tubes before entering the ring.
- Tubes with rats can be hidden in the barn and/or the brush section at the judge's discretion

10.2.5 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations
- Dogs of all levels are eligible to participate but this game is mainly aimed at Expert level dogs and above

10.2.6 Entering the ring

- The dog must be under control (with or without leash)
- For security reasons, the participant must wait at a safe distance from the gate for the previous team to leave the ring and for the judge and/or the gate to give the go-ahead before entering the ring

10.2.7 Praise and rewards

- Upon confirmation by the judge that the rat has been found, verbal and physical encouragements will be permitted but no treats or toys will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following teams.

10.2.8 Identifying the location of the rats

- The team has 75 seconds to find the rats.
- Time starts as soon as the dog's four (4) legs have left the starting box
- The handler can move twice during the alloted time
  - At the same time as the dog leave the start box
  - While the dog is searching

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Important: Only one move of each type is allowed. If the handler does the same type of move twice, the team is eliminated and must leave the ring immediately. Each displacement mat may be used more than once.

- The handler must keep quiet and make no sound while the dog search.
- In the barn section, it is up to the handler to signal the judge that his dog has found a rat by clearly saying "RAT" and / or by raising his arm/hand to stop the time.
- The judge will confirm if the right tube has been identified, if not, the judge will clearly say 'NO' and the countdown will continue. The participant can use up all the alloted time but will not have a qualifying run.
- In the brush section, the judge stops the timer when he considers that the dog has clearly identified the location of the rat (as defined in section 4.2.7, Brush rules).
- After confirmation that the dog has indeed found a rat, the handler must regain control of their dog and return to the start box while the tube with the rat is removed from the ring. The handler must wait for the signal (OK) from the judge before release his dog to find the next rat.
    - The timer is stopped as soon as a rat is identified and starts again when the dog is released
    - If the dog finds another rat while the timer is stopped, this find does not count. The handler must still return his dog to the start box and wait for the signal (OK) from the judge to release his dog. The dog must then go back to find the next rat.
    - The handler can give the dog a verbal command when releasing his dog.
    - **Handler who lose control for their dogs while the rat is being removed from the ring is automatically disqualified.**
- In the event the qualifying time has run out before the dog has located all the rats, the participant must retreive his dog and leave the ring immediately whithout letting his dog find the remaining rats(s)

10.2.9 Leaving the ring

- When leaving the ring, the dog must be under control (with or without leash)

10.3 Scoring parameters

10.3.1 Qualifying score

- The team will earn a qualifying score when they have correctly identified the location of all the rats, to the judge's satisfaction, within the alloted time of 75 seconds.

Note: An additional 15 secondes is added at the end of the qualifying time for veteran dogs

10.3.2 Non-qualifying score

- The allotted time runs out before the team has found all the rats
- A handler releases his dog before the signal from the judge
- A handler identifies a tube with no rat

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10.3.3 Disqualification

- **Talk or make sounds without the judge's authorization**
- **Participant who lets his dog shake the tube unneccessarily**
- **Participant who moves twice the same way**
- **Any unsporting behavior**

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11 CHALLENGE

11.1 Site specificities

The Challenge is similar to the barn at the excellent level with the added difficulty of not knowing how many rats are hidden. This hunt always takes place in an artifical environment (hay stacks).

11.1.1 Construction parameters

11.1.1.1 Size of the ring indoor or outdoor

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 15 feet in depth

11.1.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 25 to 35 bales of hay stacked up to 3 levels depending on the configuration chosen
- Possible configurations:
    - Double “L”
    - Double “U”
    - Three straigth lines on three sides of the ring

11.1.1.3 Sex and quantity of rats

- 3 to 5 rats, males and/or females. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

11.1.1.4 Tube placement

- 12 to 15 tubes are to be used
    - 3 to 5 with litter, 3 to 5 with rats and the others will be empty
    - Tubes containing a rat can contain a cloth for the confort of the rat as long as it is clean as to not be confused with litter (see definition in section 2).
    - It is allowed to use white, black, gray or brown tubes. If colored tubes are used, they must be used for rats as well as litter.
- Tubes must be visible and the front of the tubes must be imbedded a minimum of 2 inches from the front of the bales.
- Tubes must be placed not higher than a haystack
- Tubes must be spread over two levels (on the ground and on the top of the first row of haystacks) and spread on all sides of the selected configuration.
    - The rats can be on the ground, in height or a mix of both level.
- The competing team does not know where the rats are

11.2 Regulations

11.2.1 The start box

11.2.1.1 10.2.1.1 Placement

- The box must be inside the enclosure

11.2.1.2 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

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11.2.2 Enclosure fence

- Minimum height 3 feet
- Made of material visible to the dog
- Anchored to the ground solidly enough so dogs cannot go under

11.2.3 Placement of rat tubes

- As previously stated in the area specifics
- To be changed regularly between competing teams to ensure competitors do not know the placements of the rat tubes

11.2.4 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations
- Dogs of all levels are eligible to participate but this game is mainly aimed at Expert level dogs and above
- A competing dog cannot do a For Exibit Only (FEO) hunt and a sanctionned hunt in the same competition

11.2.5 Entering the ring

- The dog must be under control (with or without leash)
- For security reasons, the participant must wait at a safe distance from the gate for the previous team to leave the ring and for the judge and/or the gate to give the go-ahead before entering the ring

11.2.6 Praise and rewards

- Upon confirmation by the judge that a rat has been found, verbal and physical encouragements will be permitted but no treats or toys will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following teams.

11.2.7 Identifying the location of the rats

- The tubes are hidden between the haystacks, visible to the participant and the judge.
- The participant and his dog enter the ring together.
- The team has 90 seconds to find the rats.
- The participant must remain silent and must not make any noise. He can accompany his dog. If the participant decides to accompany his dog, he must stay behind (follow) or at the height of his dog. In no case can he steer his dog or bait him by waiting near the tubes. Such behavior on the part of the participant will result in disqualification.
- It is the participant's responsibility to tell the judge that his dog has found a rat by clearly saying "RAT" and / or raising a hand to stop time.
- The judge will confirm if the correct tube is identified otherwise he will say "NO" and the time will continue; the participant can continue until the maximum time but will not be qualified
- After confirming that a rat is in the identified tube, the handler must regain control of their dog and return to the start box while the tube with the rat is removed from the ring. The handler must wait for the judge's OK before releasing his dog to find the next rat.

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- Time stops as soon as a rat is found and starts again when the dog is released
- If the dog finds another rat while the time is stopped, this find does not count. The participant must still bring his dog back into the predetermined space and wait for the judge's OK to release his dog. He must then return to mark the next rat.
- The participant has the right to give a verbal command when he releases his dog
- **Any loss of control of the dog while the rat is being removed leads to automatic disqualification**

- The handler will be disqualified if he ever touches his dog or a tube during the qualifying time of the hunt.
- When the handler thinks that all the rats have been identified, he must signal the judge that the hunt is finished. The judge will confirm if all the rats have been found. If one or more rats have not been found, the participant will not be able to continue the search and will have to leave the ring.

11.2.8 Leaving the ring

- When leaving the ring, the dog must be under control (with or without leash)

11.3 Scoring parameters

11.3.1 Qualifying score

- The team will earn a qualifying score when the participant has correctly reported that all rats are identified, to the judge's satisfaction, within the alloted time of 90 seconds.

11.3.1.1 Ranking criteria

Section removed

11.3.2 Non-qualifying score

- The allotted time runs out before the team has found all the rats
- A handler releases his dog before the signal from the judge (5-second penalty)
- A handler identifies a tube with no rat
- A handler incorrectly identifies that all the rats are found

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11.3.3 Disqualification

- **Touching the dog or a tube while in the ring without the authorization of the judge**
- **Talk or make noise without the judge's permission**
- **Participant who voluntarily lets his dog shake the tube unnecessarily**
- **Lost control of the dog while the rat is removed from the ring**
- **Any unsporting behavior**

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12 RATISSAGE

The Ratissage game takes place outdoors only. The field used can be wooded, bush or a combination of both.

Branches, rocks, leaves and brush can be used to set up the search area. The materials used must be safe for hiding the rat and for the dogs.

12.1 Novice

12.1.1 Enclosure dimension

- Wooded area: 3000 square feet
- Brush area: To be revalidated
- Half brush and half wooded: To be revalidated

12.1.2 Equipment and materials

- Small flags or ribbons or cones
- 16.5-foot tracking lead

12.1.3 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

12.1.4 Placement of tube

- Only one tube (with rat) is used
- The tube may be hidden under a mound, or partially buried in the ground but should not be visible
- The team does not know the location of the tube with rat
- It is permitted to use white, black, gray or brown tubes. If colored tubes are used, they must be used for both rats and litter.

12.2 Advanced

12.2.1 Enclosure dimension

- Wooded area: 4500 square feet
- Brush area: To be revalidated
- Half brush and half wooded: To be revalidated

12.2.2 Equipment and materials

- Small flags or ribbons or cones
- 16.5-foot tracking lead

12.2.3 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

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12.2.4 Placement of tubes

- 2 to 4 tubes are used
    - 1 with the rat
    - 1 to 3 empty and clean
- Tubes may be hidden under a mound, or partially buried in the ground but should not be visible
- The team does not know the location of the tube with rat
- It is permitted to use white, black, gray or brown tubes. If colored tubes are used, they must be used for both rats and litter.

12.3 Expert

12.3.1 Enclosure dimension

- Wooded area: 3000 square feet
- Brush area: To be revalidated
- Half brush and half wooded: To be revalidated

12.3.2 Equipment and materials

- Small flags or ribbons or cones
- 16.5-foot tracking lead

12.3.3 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

12.3.4 Placement of tubes

- 3 to 5 tubes are used
    - 2 with a rat
    - 1 to 3 empty and clean
- The tube may be hidden under a mound, or partially buried in the ground but should not be visible
- The team does not know the location of the tube with rat
- it is permitted to use white, black, gray or brown tubes. If colored tubes are used, they must be used for both rats and litter.

12.4 Regulations for all levels

- The Ratissage field is not fenced but the limits of the search area are indicated by small flags, ribbons and/or cones.
- The dog is held by a lead. The unused portion of the lead must be left on the ground at all time.
- All dogs, regardless of their level, can participate in Ratissage but this game is mainly aimed at dogs at Champion level and above
- The handler-dog team can start from anywhere outside the search area
- The handler and the dog leave at the same time
- The time starts when the dog's nose enters the search area

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- At Novice and Advanced levels, the handler must hold the lead at all times. Dropping it results in elimination.
- The handler can talk to and encourage his dog throughout the search but cannot touch him
- No toys, food or treats are allowed in the search area
- Only a flat collar (non-choke) or a non-restrictive harness are permitted
- The team will be automatically eliminated if the dog relieves itself (pee or poop) in the search area
- Panties or abdominal band are allowed
- There is no penalty, other than time loss, if the dog exits the search area. The handler must bring the dog back into the search area without pulling it by the lead
- It is the participant's responsibility to tell the judge that his dog has found the rat by clearly saying "RAT" and / or raising a hand to stop time.
- The judge will confirm if the tube is correctly identified otherwise he will say "NO". In the event of an error, the handler and his dog must immediately leave the field. No additional time will be allocated to find the rat.
- For the Expert level, as there is more than one rat to find, after confirming that the rat is in the identified location, the handler must ask his dog to continue the search. The rat found is not removed from the search area. Time will be stopped only when all rats are found.
- At all time during the search at least one of the two judges will be in the search area with the handler/dog team.
- The location of the rat(s) may be moved between teams to ensure that competitors do not know the location of the tube(s) with rat
- A competing dog cannot do a For Exibit Only (FEO) hunt and a sanctionned hunt in the same competition

12.5 Scoring parameters

12.5.1 Qualifying score

The team will earn a qualifying score if the total time to find the rat(s), plus penalty if applicable, is within the following parameters:

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- Novice: 60 seconds
- Advanced: 90 seconds
- Expert: TBD

Note: An additional 15 secondes is added at the end of the qualifying time for veteran dogs

12.5.1.1 Penalties

A maximum of 5 seconds handling penalty could be added, at the discretion of the judge, to the search time according to the following criterias:

- Novice
  - None
- Advanced

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- Pull too much on the lead
- Directs the dog with the leads
- Do not leave the unused portion of the lead lying on the ground

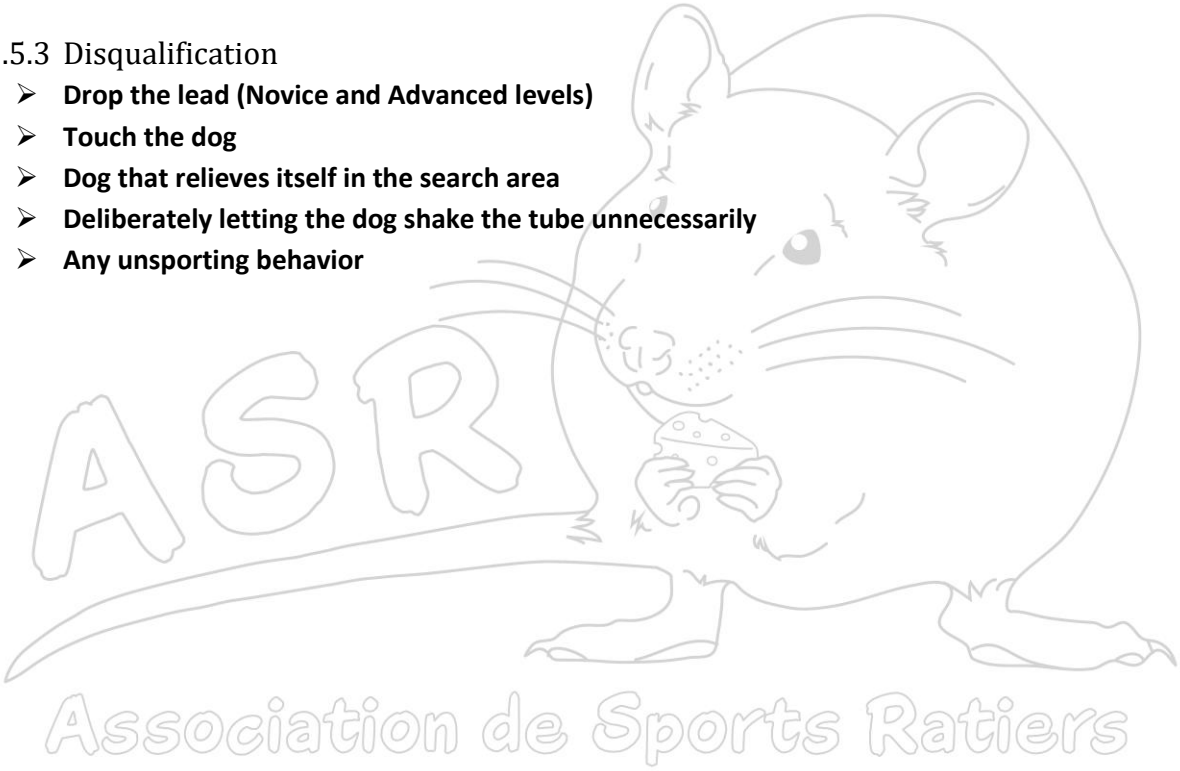
- Expert
  - Pull too much on the lead
  - Directs the dog with the leads
  - Do not leave the unused portion of the lead lying on the ground
  - Bring the dog back in the search area by pulling it by the lead
  - Step on the lead to control the dog

12.5.2 Non-qualifying score

- The team exceeds the time allowed to find the location of the rat(s)

12.5.3 Disqualification

- **Drop the lead (Novice and Advanced levels)**
- **Touch the dog**
- **Dog that relieves itself in the search area**
- **Deliberately letting the dog shake the tube unnecessarily**
- **Any unsporting behavior**



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13 GA-RAT-GE

The Ga-Rat-Ge game can take place indoor or outdoors but in both cases, no hay bales will be used.

13.1 Site specificities according to skill levels

13.1.1 Novice

13.1.1.1 Construction parameters

13.1.1.1.1 Enclosure dimensions

- Interior; 200 square feet
- Exterior; 300 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

13.1.1.1.2 Equipment and materials

- Requirement: between 15 and 20 miscellanous objects
    - Mandatory:
        - 4 or 5 tubes, all accessible
    - Various objects to chose from to complete:
        - Interior: Objects used must be interior items
            - Boxes
            - Blankets
            - Buckets
            - Chairs
            - Etc
        - Exterior: Objects used must be exterior objects
            - Leaf broom
            - Bikes
            - Flower box
            - Watering can
            - Etc

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13.1.1.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

13.1.1.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 4 or 5 tubes will be used; one will contain the rat and the others will be empty and clean
- All objects used, including the tubes, must be on the ground
- The tubes, including the one containing the rat, can be hidden in or under another object

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13.1.2 Advanced

13.1.2.1 Construction parameters

13.1.2.1.1 Enclosure dimensions

- Interior; 400 square feet
- Exterior; 500 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

13.1.2.1.2 Equipment and materials

- Requirement: between 20 and 30 miscellanous objects
    - Mandatory:
        - 4 to 7 tubes, all accessible
        - 1 dog toy, hidden but accessible
        - 2 non-airtight containers with kibbles inside. The containers are not accessible
    - Various objects to chose from to complete:
        - Interior: Objects used must be interior items
            - Boxes
            - Blankets
            - Buckets
            - Chairs
            - Etc
        - Exterior: Objects used must be exterior objects
            - Leaf broom
            - Bikes
            - Flower box
            - Watering can
            - Etc

13.1.2.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

13.1.2.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 4 to 7 tubes will be used; one will contain the rat, two will have litter and the others (one to three) will be empty and clean
- All objects used, including the tubes, must be on the ground
- The tubes, including the one containing the rat, can be hidden in or under another object.

13.1.3 Expert

13.1.3.1 Construction parameters

13.1.3.1.1 Enclosure dimensions

- Interior; 400 square feet
- Exterior; 600 square feet

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- Minimum of 10 feet in width

13.1.3.1.2 Equipment and materials

- Requirement: between 15 and 20 miscellanous objects
  - Mandatory:
    - 6 tubes, all accessible
    - 2 dog toys not hidden and accessible
    - 2 non-airtight containers with dog threats inside. The containers are easily accessible
  - Various objects to chose from to complete:
    - Interior: Objects used must be interior items
      - Boxes
      - Blankets
      - Buckets
      - Chairs
      - Etc
    - Exterior: Objects used must be exterior objects
      - Leaf broom
      - Bikes
      - Flower box
      - Watering can
      - Etc

13.1.3.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

13.1.3.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 6 tubes will be used; two will contain a rat and the others will have litter
- All objects used, including the tubes, could be on the ground or at a maximum height of 36 inches
- The tubes, including those containing a rat, can be hidden in or under another object

13.1.4 Champion

13.1.4.1 Construction parameters

13.1.4.1.1 Enclosure dimensions

- Interior; 400 square feet
- Exterior; 600 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

13.1.4.1.2 Equipment and materials

- Interior requirement: between 30 and 40 miscellanous objects
- Exterior requirement: A minimum of 40 miscellanous objects

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- Mandatory:
  - 8 tubes, all accessible
  - Minimum of 4 dog toys not hidden and accessible
- Various objects to chose from to complete:
  - Interior: Objects used must be interior items
    - Boxes
    - Blankets
    - Buckets
    - Chairs
    - Etc
  - Exterior: Objects used must be exterior objects
    - Leaf broom
    - Bikes
    - Flower box
    - Watering can
    - Etc

13.1.4.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

13.1.4.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 8 tubes will be used; two will contain a rat, four will have litter and the last two will contain human food as distractor
- All objects used, including the tubes, could be on the ground or at a maximum height of 36 inches
- Inside, a minimum of 2 tubes must be in height. They can be suspended, horizontally, as long as it is not with a bungee.
- Outdoors, tubes can be partially buried to a maximum depth of 3 inches as long as rat safety is not compromised
- The tubes, including those containing a rat, can be hidden in or under another object

13.2 Regulations for all levels

13.2.1 Start box

13.2.1.1 Placement

- The box must be inside the enclosure
- Minimum distance of 5 feet from any object

13.2.1.2 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

13.2.2 Enclosure fence

- Minimum height 3 feet

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- Made of material visible to the dog
- Anchored to the ground solidly enough so dogs cannot go under

13.2.3 Tubes and objects

- Placement of the tube(s) with rat as mentioned in the specifics by levels
- Tubes used can be white, black or painted in different colors
- Lure tubes (empty or with litter) can be of different shapes and sizes
- Tubes with rat must comply with regulation (length/size)
- Same set-up for all teams
- Participant knows the location of the rat tube(s) before entering the ring

13.2.4 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations
- Dogs of all levels can participate in Ga-Rat-Ge
- In a sanctionned trial, the dog must compete in its current level.
- A competing dog cannot do a For Exibit Only (FEO) hunt and a sanctionned hunt in the same competition

13.2.5 Entering the ring

- The dog must be under control (with or without leash)
- For security reasons, the participant must wait at a safe distance from the gate for the previous team to leave the ring and for the judge and/or the gate to give the go-ahead before entering the ring

13.2.6 Praise and rewards

- Upon confirmation by the judge that the rat has been found, verbal and physical encouragements will be permitted but no treats or toys will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following teams.

13.2.7 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

- Only the dog is allowed to enter the field. The participant is entitled to a starting command and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise**. He cannot at any time help is dog either gesturally or verbally.
- The judge stops time when he considers that the dog clearly and unequivocally demonstrates the presence of the rat (as defined in Bush, section 4.2.7)
- For levels with more than one rat, when the juge confirms that a rat has been found, the participant must catch their dog and bring it back to the predeterminated space while waiting for the identified tube to be removed from the enclosure. The participant must wait for the judge's OK before releasing their dog to find the next rat.
    - Time stops as soon as a rat is found and starts again when the dog is released
    - If the dog finds another rat while the time is stopped, this find does not count. The participant must still bring his dog back into the predetermined space and wait for the judge's OK to release his dog. The dog must return to mark the next rat.

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- The participant has the right to give again a verbal command when he releases his dog
- **Any loss of control of the dog while the rat is being removed leads to automatic disqualification**

13.2.8 Exiting the ring

- When leaving the ring, the dog must always be under control (with or without leash).

13.3 Scoring parameters

13.3.1 Qualifying score

The team will earn a qualifying score if the total time to find the rat(s), to the satisfaction of the judge, is within the following parameters:

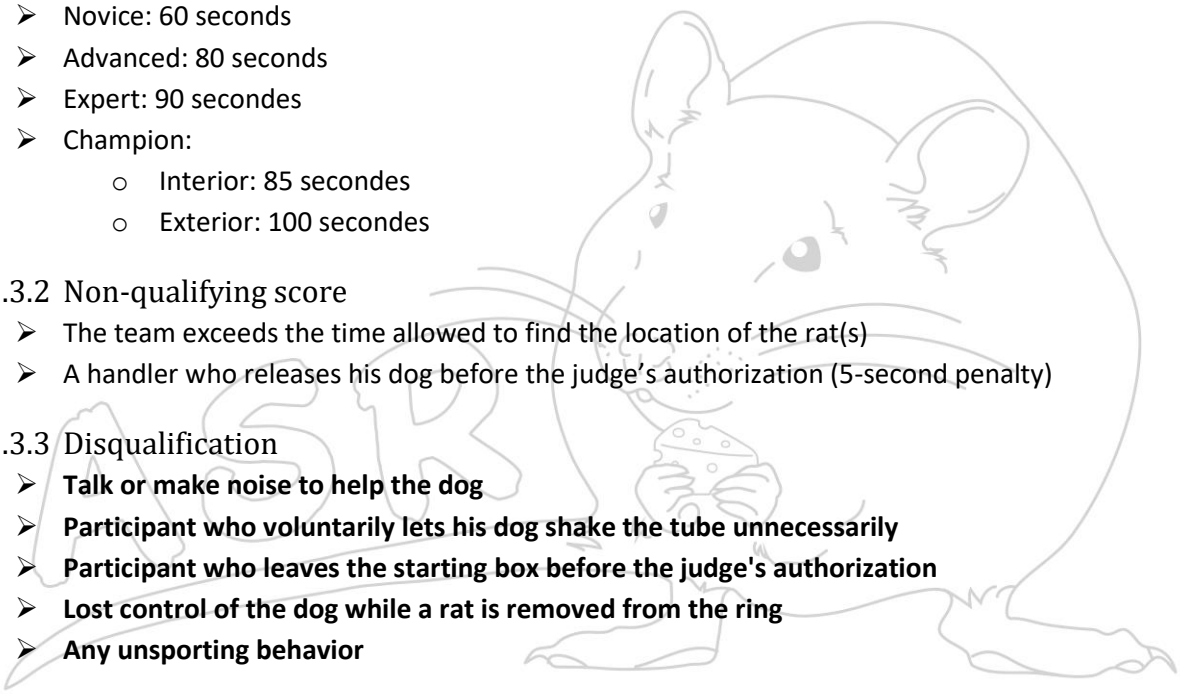
- Novice: 60 seconds
- Advanced: 80 seconds
- Expert: 90 secondes
- Champion:
  - Interior: 85 secondes
  - Exterior: 100 secondes

13.3.2 Non-qualifying score

- The team exceeds the time allowed to find the location of the rat(s)
- A handler who releases his dog before the judge's authorization (5-second penalty)

13.3.3 Disqualification

- **Talk or make noise to help the dog**
- **Participant who voluntarily lets his dog shake the tube unnecessarily**
- **Participant who leaves the starting box before the judge's authorization**
- **Lost control of the dog while a rat is removed from the ring**
- **Any unsporting behavior**



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14 Rat-Mouflage

The dog must find the rat(s) hidden under fabric within a set amount of time.

The challenge for the dog is visual, as all objects and tubes look alike and are hidden under fabric. Therefore, the dog cannot identify the tubes visually and must use its nose.

14.1 Site Specifics

The Rat-Mouflage trial may take place indoors or outdoors under shelter. In both cases, no hay bales will be used.

14.2 Site specificities according to skill levels

14.2.1 Novice

14.2.1.1 Construction parameters

14.2.1.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 300 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

14.2.1.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 4 tubes
- 11 miscellaneous
  - Objects (must be cylindrical to simulate tubes, e.g., 2-liter bottles, paper towel rolls, rolled towels, etc.)
- Fabric to cover objects (blankets, scarves, towels, soft-handled bags, etc.)

14.2.1.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

14.2.1.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 4 tubes will be used; one will contain the rat, the others will be clean and empty.
- All 15 objects (including the tubes) must be placed on the ground and scattered within the enclosure.
  - A covered tube/object is considered one object.

14.2.2 Advanced

14.2.2.1 Construction parameters

14.2.2.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

14.2.2.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 6 tubes
- 16 miscellaneous objects

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- Objects (must be cylindrical to simulate tubes, e.g., 2-liter bottles, paper towel rolls, rolled towels, etc.)

- Fabric to cover objects (blankets, scarves, towels, soft-handled bags, etc.)
- 3 judge-selected toys
  - Toys must not squeak

14.2.2.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

14.2.2.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 6 tubes will be used; one will contain the rat, three will have litter, the others will be clean and empty.
- All 25 objects (including tubes and toys) must be placed on the ground and scattered within the enclosure.
  - A covered tube/object is considered one object.
  - Toys must be visible (not covered).

14.2.3 Expert

14.2.3.1 Construction parameters

14.2.3.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

14.2.3.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 7 tubes
- 25 miscellaneous objects
  - Objects (must be cylindrical to simulate tubes, e.g., 2-liter bottles, paper towel rolls, rolled towels, etc.)
  - 2 of them will be perforated and will contain dog food or treats. Objects selected must not allow the dog to access the food
- Fabric to cover objects (blankets, scarves, towels, soft-handled bags, etc.)
- 3 judge-selected toys
  - Toys must not squeak

14.2.3.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female are used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

14.2.3.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 7 tubes will be used; two (2) will contain a rat, four (4) will have litter, one (1) will contain dog food.
- All 35 objects (including tubes and toys) to be placed on the ground or elevated and scattered within the enclosure.

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- Maximum object height = 24 inches
- Elevated objects must be secured
- It is permitted to have 2 objects under the same fabric as long as they are completely covered
- No container/tube with food, nor a tube with litter hidden under the same fabric as a tube with rat.
- Fabric alone does not count for one object.
- Toys must be visible (not covered).

14.2.4 Champion

14.2.4.1 Construction parameters

14.2.4.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

14.2.4.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 9 tubes
- 25 miscellaneous objects
  - Objects (must be cylindrical to simulate tubes, e.g., 2-liter bottles, paper towel rolls, rolled towels, etc.)
  - Two (2) of them will be perforated and will contain dog food or treats. Objects selected must not allow dogs to access the food
- Fabric to cover objects (blankets, scarves, towels, soft-handled bags, etc.)
- 6 judge-selected toys
  - Toys may produce noise (squeak)

14.2.4.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

14.2.4.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 9 tubes are used; two (2) will contain a rat, four (4) will have litter and three (3) will contain human food.
- All 40 objects (including tubes and toys) to be placed on the ground or elevated and scattered within the enclosure.
  - Maximum object height = 24 inches
  - Elevated objects must be secured
  - Possible to have 2 objects under the same fabric as long as they are completely covered
  - No container/tube with food, nor a tube with litter hidden, nor toy under the same fabric as a tube with rat.
  - Fabric alone does not count for one object.
  - Toys can be visible (uncovered) or hidden.

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14.3 Regulations for all levels

14.3.1 Start box

14.3.1.1 Placement

- The box must be inside the enclosure, close to the entrance
- No minimum distance is required between the start box and the search area

14.3.1.2 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

14.3.2 Enclosure fence

- Wall or fence of 3 feet height minimum height
- Secured to ground to prevent dog from going under.

14.3.3 Tubes and objects

- Placement of the tube(s) with rat as mentioned in the specifics by levels
- Tubes used can be white, black or painted in different colors
- Tubes with rat must comply with regulation (length/size)
- Same set-up for all teams

14.3.4 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations (section 5.2.4).
- Senior and/or disable dogs are welcome, but no additionnal time will be granted for their search and no special accommodations will be made for deaf and/or blind dogs.
- Dogs of all levels can participate in Rat-Mouflage
- In a sanctionned trial, the dog must compete in its current level.
- A competing dog cannot do a For Exibit Only (FEO) run and a sanctionned run in the same trial.

14.3.5 Entering the ring

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations (section 5.2.5).

14.3.6 Praise and rewards

- Upon confirmation by the judge that the rat has been found, verbal and physical encouragements will be permitted but no treats or toys (other than those placed by the juge) will be tolerated in the enclosure out of respect for the following teams.

14.3.7 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

- The handler is responsible for indicating to the judge that their dog has found the rat by clearly saying "RAT!" and/or raising their hand to stop the timer.
- If the wrong tube is identified or the dog fails to find the rat within the allotted search time, the team must immediately exit the ring.
- The handler may choose to stay on the starting mat without giving any cues to their dog or follow the dog and/or speak, which will incur point penalty.

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- Under no circumstances may the handler touch the tubes, any objects, or their dog (except after a rat has been found).
- For levels with more than one rat, the time stops as soon as a rat is found and resumes when the dog is released again.
    - If the dog finds another rat while the time is stopped, that find does not count. The handler must still bring their dog back to the starting box and wait for the judge's OK before releasing the dog to mark the next rat.
    - The handler is allowed to give a new verbal command when releasing the dog.
    - **Any loss of control of the dog while the located rat is being removed from the ring results in automatic disqualification.**
    - When the judge confirms that a rat has been found, the handler must:
        - For the Expert level, catch their dog and return to the starting box to wait while the identified tube is removed from the ring. The handler must wait for the judge's OK before releasing the dog to find the next rat.
            - No time penalty will be given if the handler leaves the box to retrieve their dog after a rat has been found.
        - For the Champion level:
            - If the handler had already left the start box, they must retrieve their dog and return to the box to wait while the identified tube is removed. The handler must wait for the judge's OK before releasing the dog.
            - If the handler remained in the start box (in silence), they must stay there and call their dog back. The dog must return immediately and directly (within approximately 3 seconds).
                - If the handler moves to retrieve the dog, a 35-point movement penalty will be applied.
                - If the dog does not return immediately and/or directly and the handler does not move to retrieve it within 5 seconds, the team will be automatically disqualified.
    - Judges may stop and excuse the team in the ring at any time if they believe the safety of the rat(s) and/or the equipment is at risk.
    - A judge may be inside the ring if they believe it is the best position for clearly observing the search.

14.3.8 Exiting the ring

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations (section 5.2.8)

14.4 Scoring parameters for all levels

14.4.1 Qualifying score

The team will earn a qualifying score if the total time to find the rat(s), to the satisfaction of the judge, is within the following parameters:

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- Novice
  - Time: 60 seconds
  - Minimum 120 points at the Novice level required to earn the title
  - 40 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 30 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (10-point penalty)
- Advanced
  - Time: 70 seconds
  - Minimum 200 points at the Advanced level is required to earn the title
  - 50 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 40 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (10-point penalty)
- Expert
  - Time: 80 seconds
  - Minimum 300 points at the Expert level is required to earn the title
  - 60 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 30 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (30-point penalty)
- Champion
  - Time: 80 seconds
  - Minimum 420 points at the Champion level is required to earn the title
  - 70 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 35 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (35-point penalty), including to retrieve the dog after a rat find
- Bronze, Silver, and Gold
  - A minimum of 200 additional Champion-level points is required to earn each title. (Bronze = 620 points, Silver = 820 points, and Gold = 1020 points)
  - 50 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 25 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (25-point penalty), including to retrieve the dog after a rat find
- Sapphir, Ruby, and Diamond
  - A minimum of 400 additional Champion-level points is required to earn each title. (Sapphir = 1420 points, Ruby = 1820 points, and Diamond = 2220 points)
  - 50 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 25 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (25-point penalty), including to retrieve the dog after a rat find
- Except for the Champion Bronze to Diamond levels, points do not carry over between levels

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14.4.2 Non-qualifying score

- The team exceeds the time allowed to find the location of the rat(s)
- When a wrong tube is identified
- A handler who releases his dog before the judge's authorization (5-second penalty)

14.4.3 Disqualification

- **Handler intentionally allows the dog to shake or damage the tube/setup**
- **Loss of control of the dog while a rat is being removed**
- **Any unsportsmanlike conduct**
- **A dog that relieves itself within the search area.**
- **In Champion level, if the handler does not leave the start box (or takes too long – more than 5 seconds –) to retrieve their dog after a rat has been found, when the dog does not return immediately and directly after being recalled**.

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15 Rat-Byrinthe

The dog must find the rat(s) hidden in a maze-like scenario built using fences and barriers. He must be able to orient itself and maintain focus despite turns, straight lines, and dead ends that prevent direct access to the tubes.

15.1 Site Specifics

The Rat-Byrinthe trial may take place indoors or outdoors. In both cases, no hay bales will be used.

15.2 Site specificities according to skill levels

15.2.1 Novice

15.2.1.1 Construction parameters

15.2.1.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 300 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

15.2.1.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 4 tubes
- 4 fence sections (metal or plastic), each with foldable V-shaped panels, 5 to 8 ft total length
- All fences must be at least 30 in high
- Sufficient space between sections for dogs and handlers to move freely
- 11 miscellaneous objects

15.2.1.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

15.2.1.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 4 tubes will be used; one will contain the rat; the others will be clean and empty.
- All 15 objects (including the tubes) must be placed on the ground and spread throughout the enclosure.
  - Objects must not be dog toys, nor contain food

15.2.2 Advanced

15.2.2.1 Construction parameters

15.2.2.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

15.2.2.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 6 tubes
- 4 fence sections (metal or plastic), each with foldable V-shaped panels, 5 to 8 ft total length
- 1 fence section (metal or plastic) consisting of foldable panels arranged in zigzag or U-shape, 10 to 12 ft total length

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- One fence may be against a wall to form a dead end
- All fences must be at least 30 in high
- Sufficient space between sections for dogs and handlers to move freely
- 16 miscellaneous objects
- 3 judge-selected toys
    - Toys must not squeak

15.2.2.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

15.2.2.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 6 tubes will be used; one will contain the rat, three will have litter, the others will be clean and empty.
- All 25 objects (including tubes and toys) must be placed on the ground and spread throughout the enclosure.
    - Toys must be visible and accessible

15.2.3 Expert

15.2.3.1 Construction parameters

15.2.3.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

15.2.3.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 7 tubes
- Two fence sections, made of metal or plastic, each consisting of foldable panels arranged in a V-shape, with a total length of 5 to 8 feet.
- Two fence sections, made of metal or plastic, consisting of foldable panels arranged in a zigzag or U-shape, with a total length of 10 to 12 feet.
- Two fences, at least 5 feet each, placed against a wall to form a dead end.
- All fences must be at least 30 in high
- Sufficient space between sections for dogs and handlers to move freely
- 20 to 25 miscellaneous objects
- 3 judge-selected toys
    - Toys must not squeak

15.2.3.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

15.2.3.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 7 tubes will be used; two will contain a rat, four will have litter, one will contain dog food/treats.

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- All 30 to 35 objects (including tubes and toys) to be placed on the ground or elevated and spread throughout the enclosure.
    - Maximum object height = 24 inches
    - Elevated objects must be secured
    - Two of the objects will be perforated and contain dog food/treats. The selected objects must not allow the dog to access the food.
    - Toys must be visible and accessible

15.2.4 Champion

15.2.4.1 Construction parameters

15.2.4.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

15.2.4.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 9 tubes
- Two fence sections, made of metal or plastic, each consisting of foldable panels with a total length of 10 to 12 feet.
    - The fences will be arranged in parallel to form a corridor approximately 5 feet wide, dividing the enclosure into two sections, not necessarily of equal size.
    - Each fence will have one end touching a wall of the enclosure, placed opposite each other so that the entrance is at one end and the exit at the other end of the corridor.
    - The entrance must **not** be directly in front of the starting box.
- Two fence sections, made of metal or plastic, each consisting of foldable panels arranged in a zigzag shape, with a total length of 6 to 10 feet, forming separate dead ends along a wall of the enclosure.
    - At least one of the dead ends must be positioned in such a way that the dog is forced to take the corridor to reach it.
- All fences must be at least 30 in high
- Sufficient space between sections for dogs and handlers to move freely
- 20 to 30 miscellaneous objects
- 6 judge-selected toys
    - Toys can squeak

15.2.4.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

15.2.4.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 9 tubes will be used; two (2) will contain a rat, four (4) will have litter and three (3) will contain human food.
- All objects (35-45, including tubes and toys) to be placed on the ground or elevated and spread throughout the enclosure.

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- Maximum object height = 24 inches
- Elevated objects must be secured
- Two of the objects will be perforated and contain human food. The selected objects must not allow the dog to access the food
- Toys must be visible and accessible

15.3 Regulations for all levels

15.3.1 Start box

15.3.1.1 Placement

- The box must be inside the enclosure, close to the entrance
- No minimum distance from any object required

15.3.1.2 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

15.3.2 Enclosure fence

- Wall or fence of 3 feet height minimum height
- Secured to ground to prevent dog from going under.

15.3.3 Tubes and objects

- Placement of the tube(s) with rat as mentioned in the specifics by levels
- Tubes used can be white, black or painted in different colors
- Tubes with rat must comply with regulation (length/size)
- Same set-up for all teams

15.3.4 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations (section 5.2.4).
- Senior and/or disable dogs are welcome, but no additionnal time will be granted for their search and no special accommodations will be made for deaf and/or blind dogs.
- Dogs of all levels can participate in Rat-Byrinthe
- In a sanctionned trial, the dog must compete in its current level.
- A competing dog cannot do a For Exibit Only (FEO) hunt and a sanctionned hunt in the same competition

15.3.5 Entering the ring

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations (section 5.2.5).

15.3.6 Praise and rewards

- Upon confirmation by the judge that the rat has been found, verbal and physical encouragements will be permitted but no treats or toys (other than the juge selected toy) will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following teams.

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15.3.7 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

- The handler is responsible for indicating to the judge that their dog has found the rat by clearly saying "RAT!" and/or raising their hand to stop the timer.
- If the wrong tube is identified or the dog fails to find the rat within the allotted search time, the team must immediately exit the ring.
- The handler may choose to stay on the mat without giving any cues to their dog or follow the dog and/or speak, which will incur point penalty.
- Under no circumstances may the handler touch the tubes, any objects, or their dog (except after a rat has been found).
- In Expert and Champion, at least one tube with rat will be hidden
- For levels with more than one rat, the clock stops as soon as a rat is found and resumes when the dog is released again.
    - If the dog finds another rat while the time is stopped, that find does not count. The handler must still bring their dog back to the designated area and wait for the judge's OK before releasing the dog to mark the next rat.
    - The handler is allowed to give a new verbal command when releasing the dog.
    - **Any loss of control of the dog while the located rat is being removed from the ring results in automatic disqualification.**
    - When the judge confirms that a rat has been found, the handler must:
        - For the Expert level, catch their dog and return to the starting box to wait while the identified tube is removed from the ring. The handler must wait for the judge's OK before releasing the dog to find the next rat.
            - No time penalty will be given if the handler leaves the box to retrieve their dog after a rat has been found.
        - For the Champion level:
            - If the handler had already left the start box, they must retrieve their dog and return to the box to wait while the identified tube is removed. The handler must wait for the judge's OK before releasing the dog.
            - If the handler remained in the start box (in silence), they must stay there and call their dog back. The dog must return immediately and directly (within approximately 3 seconds).
                - If the handler moves to retrieve the dog, a 35-point movement penalty will be applied.
                - If the dog does not return immediately and/or directly and the handler does not move to retrieve it within 5 seconds, the team will be automatically disqualified.
- Judges may stop and excuse the team in the ring at any time if they believe the safety of the rat(s) and/or the equipment is at risk.
- A judge may be inside the ring if they believe it is the best position for clearly observing the search.

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15.3.8 Exiting the ring

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations (section 5.2.8)

15.4 Scoring parameters for all levels

15.4.1 Qualifying score

The team will earn a qualifying score if the total time to find the rat(s), to the satisfaction of the judge, is within the following parameters:

- Novice
  - Time: 60 seconds
  - Minimum 120 points at Novice level is required to earn the title
  - 40 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 30 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (10-point penalty)
- Advanced
  - Time: 70 seconds
  - Minimum 200 points at the Advanced level is required to earn the title
  - 50 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 40 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (10-point penalty)
- Expert
  - Time: 80 seconds
  - Minimum 300 points at the Expert level is required to earn the title
  - 60 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 30 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (30-point penalty)
- Champion
  - Time: 80 seconds
  - Minimum 420 points at the Champion level is required to earn the title
  - 70 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 35 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (35-point penalty), including to retrieve the dog after a rat find
- Bronze, Silver, and Gold
  - A minimum of 200 additional Champion-level points is required to earn each title. (Bronze = 620 points, Silver = 820 points, and Gold = 1020 points)
  - 50 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 25 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (25-point penalty), including to retrieve the dog after a rat find

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- Sapphir, Ruby, and Diamond
  - A minimum of 400 additional Champion-level points is required to earn each title. (Sapphir = 1420 points, Ruby = 1820 points, and Diamond = 2220 points)
  - 50 points if the handler stays in the start box without speaking while the dog works at a distance
  - 25 points if the handler moves or speaks after the dog leaves the box (25-point penalty), including to retrieve the dog after a rat find
- Except for the Champion Bronze to Diamond levels, points do not carry over between levels

15.4.2 Non-qualifying score

- The team exceeds the time allowed to find the location of the rat(s)
- When a wrong tube is identified
- A handler who releases his dog before the judge's authorization (5-second penalty)

15.4.3 Disqualification

- **Handler intentionally allows the dog to shake or damage the tube/setup**
- **Loss of control of the dog while a rat is being removed**
- **Any unsportsmanlike conduct**
- **A dog that relieves itself within the search area.**
- **In Champion level, if the handler does not leave the start box (or takes too long – more than 5 seconds –) to retrieve their dog after a rat has been found, when the dog does not return immediately and directly after being recalled**.

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16 Rat-Haut

This game introduces a new dimension to rat hunting sports, as all searches are conducted using horizontally suspended and secured tubes. The dog must adapt to the hanging tubes to indicate to its handler where the rat(s) are located.

16.1 Site Specifics

The Rat-Haut trial may take place indoors or outdoors under a shelter. In both cases, no hay bales will be used.

16.2 Site specificities according to skill levels

16.2.1 Novice

16.2.1.1 Construction parameters

16.2.1.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 300 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

16.2.1.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 10 tubes
  - Colored tubes allowed
- 1 fence section, ideally made of metal, arranged in a zig-zag or U-shape, with a total length of 10 to 12 ft in the middle of the search area
- All fences must be at least 30 in high
- 20 non-elastic straps or fasteners

16.2.1.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

16.2.1.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 10 tubes will be used; one will contain the rat, four will contain litter and the others will be clean and empty.
- All tubes must be horizontally suspended at various heights. Lowest point of any tubes must be at 12 inches minimum from the ground and at a maximum of 30 inches
- It is allowed to place two tubes one on top of the other
- Each tube must be held by 2 straps
- Tubes must be distributed across at least two surfaces, which may include:
  - Both sides of the central fence
  - Two of the enclosure's walls/fences
  - A combination of both

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16.2.2 Advanced

16.2.2.1 Construction parameters

16.2.2.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

16.2.2.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 13 tubes
  - Colored tubes allowed
- 2 fence sections, ideally made of metal, arranged in a zig-zag, U-shape or circle, with a total length of 10 to 12 ft in the middle of the search area
- All fences must be at least 30 in high
- Non-elastic straps or fasteners
- 3 judge-selected toys
  - Toys must not squeak

16.2.2.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 1 rat, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

16.2.2.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 13 tubes will be used; one will contain the rat, 8 will have litter, the others will be clean and empty.
- All tubes must be horizontally suspended at various heights. Lowest point of any tubes must be at 12 inches minimum from the ground and at a maximum of 30 inches
- It is allowed to place two tubes or one tube and a toy, one above the other
- Each tube must be held by 2 straps
- Tubes must be distributed across at least 4 distinct surfaces, which may include:
  - Both sides of the central fences
  - Four enclosure's walls/fences
  - A combination of both
- Toys must also be suspended

16.2.3 Expert

16.2.3.1 Construction parameters

16.2.3.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

16.2.3.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 13 tubes
  - Colored tubes allowed

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- Three fence sections, ideally made of metal, arranged in a zigzag, U-shape, or circular shape, with a total length of 10 to 12 feet, installed in the center of the enclosure.
- All fences must be at least 30 in high
- Non-elastic straps or fasteners
- 6 judge-selected toys
    - Toys must not squeak

16.2.3.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

16.2.3.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 13 tubes will be used; two (2) will contain a rat, 8 will have litter, the others will be clean and empty
- All tubes must be horizontally suspended at various heights. Lowest point of any tubes must be at 12 inches minimum from the ground and at a maximum of 30 inches
- It is allowed to place two tubes or one tube and a toy, one above the other
- Each tube must be held by 2 straps
- Tubes must be distributed across at least six (6) distinct surfaces, which may include:
    - Both sides of the central fences
    - A combination of central fences and enclosure walls/fences.
- Toys must also be suspended

16.2.4 Champion

16.2.4.1 Construction parameters

16.2.4.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

16.2.4.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 15 tubes
    - Colored tubes allowed
- Three fence sections, ideally made of metal, arranged in a zigzag, U-shape, or circular shape, with a total length of 10 to 12 feet, installed in the center of the enclosure
- All fences must be at least 30 in high
- It is allowed to place two tubes or one tube and a toy, one above the other
- Non-elastic straps or fasteners
- 6 judge-selected toys
    - Toys can squeak

16.2.4.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

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16.2.4.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 15 tubes will be used; two (2) will contain a rat, two (2) will have dog food/treats, 8 will have litter, the others will be clean and empty
- All tubes must be horizontally suspended at various heights. Lowest point of any tubes must be at 12 inches minimum from the ground and at a maximum of 30 inches
- It is allowed to place two tubes one on top of the other
- Each tube must be held by 2 straps
- Tubes must be distributed across at least six (6) distinct surfaces, which may include:
    - Both sides of the central fences
    - A combination of central fences and enclosure walls/fences.
- Toys must also be suspended

16.2.5 Excellent

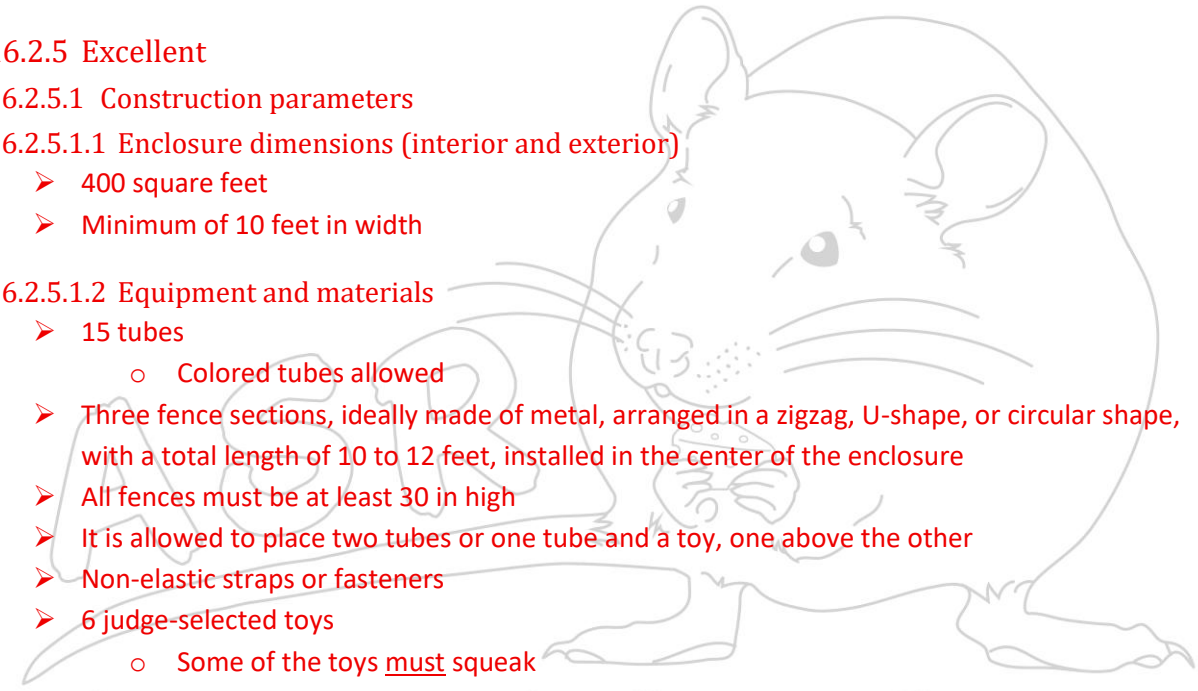
16.2.5.1 Construction parameters

16.2.5.1.1 Enclosure dimensions (interior and exterior)

- 400 square feet
- Minimum of 10 feet in width

16.2.5.1.2 Equipment and materials

- 15 tubes
    - Colored tubes allowed
- Three fence sections, ideally made of metal, arranged in a zigzag, U-shape, or circular shape, with a total length of 10 to 12 feet, installed in the center of the enclosure
- All fences must be at least 30 in high
- It is allowed to place two tubes or one tube and a toy, one above the other
- Non-elastic straps or fasteners
- 6 judge-selected toys
    - Some of the toys must squeak



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16.2.5.2 Sex and quantity of rats

- 2 rats, male and/or female will be used. However, the choice of sex must remain the same throughout the competition to ensure fairplay to all competitiors.

16.2.5.3 Placement of tube

- A total of 15 tubes will be used; two (2) will contain a rat, two (2) will have dog food/treats and/or human food, 8 will have litter, the others will be clean and empty
- All tubes must be horizontally suspended at various heights. Lowest point of any tubes must be at 12 inches minimum from the ground and at a maximum of 30 inches
- It is allowed to place two tubes one on top of the other
- Each tube must be held by 2 straps
- Tubes must be distributed across at least six (6) distinct surfaces, which may include:
    - Both sides of the central fences

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- A combination of central fences and enclosure walls/fences.

- Toys must also be suspended

16.3 Regulations for all levels

16.3.1 Start box

16.3.1.1 Placement

- The box must be inside the enclosure, close to the entrance
- Minimum 5 ft from the search area

16.3.1.2 Dimensions

- 4 feet wide by 3 feet deep

16.3.2 Enclosure fence

- Wall or fence of 3 feet height minimum height
- Secured to ground to prevent dog from going under.

16.3.3 Tubes and objects

- Placement of the tube(s) and toys as mentioned in the specifics by levels
- Tubes used can be white, black or painted in different colors
- Tubes with rat must comply with regulation (length/size)
- Same set-up for all teams

16.3.4 Eligible dogs

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations (section 5.2.4).
- Senior and disable dogs are welcome, but no additionnal time will be granted for their search and no special accommodations will be made for deaf and/or blind dogs.
- Dogs of all levels can participate in Rat-Haut
- In a sanctionned trial, the dog must compete in its current level.
- A competing dog cannot do a For Exibit Only (FEO) hunt and a sanctionned hunt in the same competition

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16.3.5 Entering the ring

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations (section 5.2.5).

16.3.6 Praise and rewards

- Upon confirmation by the judge that the rat has been found, verbal and physical encouragements will be permitted but no treats or toys (other than the juge selected toy) will be tolerated in the ring out of respect for the following teams.

16.3.7 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

- The handler is responsible for indicating to the judge that their dog has found the rat by clearly saying "RAT!" and/or raising their hand to stop the timer.

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- If the wrong tube is identified or the dog fails to find the rat within the allotted search time, the team must immediately exit the ring.
- To ensure safety of the rat(s) and dog, the handler must move with their dog to be able to intervene quickly if the dog's intensity risks toppling the fence. In such case, the handler is allowed and expected to hold the fence, but under no circumstances is the handler allowed to touch the tubes, toys, or the dog, under penalty of elimination.
- In Expert and Champion levels, since there is more than one rat to find, after confirmation that the rat is indeed in the identified tube, the handler must catch their dog and bring it back to the start box while the identified tube is removed from the enclosure. The handler must wait for the judge's OK before releasing their dog to search for the next rat.
    - Time stops as soon as a rat is found and resumes when the dog is released again.
    - If the dog finds another rat while the time is stopped, that find does not count. The handler must still bring their dog back to the designated area and wait for the judge's OK before releasing the dog to mark the next rat.
    - **Any loss of control of the dog while the located rat is being removed from the ring results in automatic disqualification.**
- For the Excellent level, the first rat found remains in place while the dog continues searching. The handler may not deliberately block access to the tube in order to force the dog to find the other rat.
- Throughout the search, the handler may talk to their dog and point to the tubes, but must not touch the dog or the tubes.
- Judges may stop and excuse the team in the ring at any time if they believe the safety of the rat(s) and/or the equipment is at risk.
- A judge may be inside the ring if they believe it is the best position for clearly observing the search.

16.3.8 Exiting the ring

- As stipulated in the General Rules and Regulations (section 5.2.8)

16.4 Scoring parameters for all levels

16.4.1 Qualifying score

The team will earn a qualifying score if the total time to find the rat(s), to the satisfaction of the judge, is within the following parameters:

- Novice
    - Time: 50 seconds
    - Minimum 300 points required to earn the Novice title
    - Rat found under 30 seconds = 100 points
    - Rat found in 30 seconds or more = 50 points
- Advanced
    - Time: 60 seconds
    - Minimum 400 points at the Advanced level is required to earn the title

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- Rat found under 30 seconds = 100 points
- Rat found in 30 seconds or more = 50 points

- Expert
  - Time: 60 seconds
  - Minimum 400 points at the Expert level is required to earn the title
  - Rat found under 30 seconds = 100 points
  - Rat found in 30 seconds or more = 50 points
- Champion
  - Time: 75 secondes
  - Minimum 500 points at the Champion level is required to earn the title
  - Rat found under 30 seconds = 100 points
  - Rat found in 30 seconds or more = 50 points
- Excellent
  - Time: 90 secondes
  - Minimum 500 points at the Excellent level is required to earn the title
  - Rat found under 40 seconds = 100 points
  - Rat found in 40 seconds or more = 50 points
- Bronze, Silver, and Gold
  - A minimum of 500 additional Excellent-level points is required to earn each title. (Bronze = 1000 points, Silver = 1500 points, and Gold = 2000 points)
  - Rat found under 40 seconds = 100 points
  - Rat found in 40 seconds or more = 50 points
- Sapphir, Ruby, and Diamond
  - A minimum of 800 additional Excellent-level points is required to earn each title. (Sapphir = 2800 points, Ruby = 3600 points, and Diamond = 4400 points)
  - Rat found under 40 seconds = 100 points
  - Rat found in 40 seconds or more = 50 points
- Except for theExcellent Bronze to Diamond levels, points do not carry over between levels

16.4.2 Non-qualifying score

- The team exceeds the time allowed to find the location of the rat(s)
- When a wrong tube is identified
- A handler who releases his dog before the judge's authorization (5-second penalty)

16.4.3 Disqualification

- **Handler intentionally allows the dog to shake or damage the tube/setup**
- **Handler who does not intervene promptly to ensure the safety of the rat(s)**
- **Loss of control of the dog while a rat is being removed**
- **Any unsportsmanlike conduct**
- **A dog that relieves itself within the search area.**

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17 WELLFARE AND SECURITY OF THE RATS

17.1 Welfare of the rats during a trial

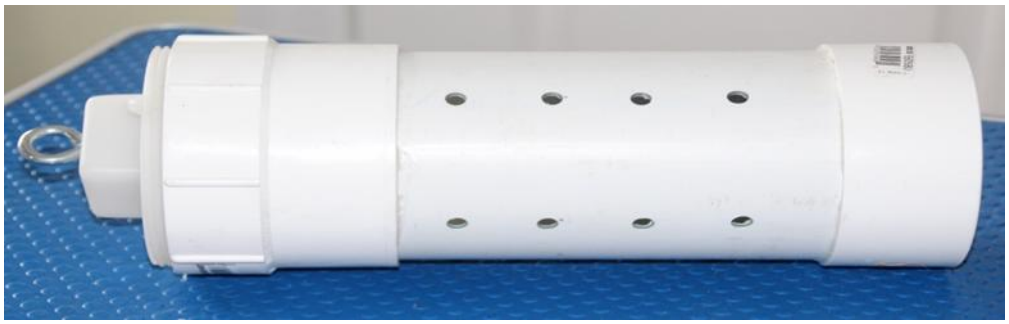
- The organizing body must know the origins of the rats used during its trials.
- Each and every rat must have been trained and must not show any sign of stress while in the tube.
- A rat showing any sign of stress must be removed immediately and cannot be reused for the remainder of the competition.
- A transport cage must be made available and used to give the rats sufficient rest periods.
- Resting rats must be placed in a quiet area not accessible to dogs.
- During their rest periods, the rats must have fresh water and food at their disposal.
- It is forbidden for competitors to approach the rats during their rest period especially with a dog. People who do so could be disqualified with no refund.
- A rat cannot be used for more than an hour at the time and the interval could be less depending on the level and/or intensity of the dogs.
- Each rat must have a minimum of 30-minute rest periods between working sessions.
- Depending on the health of the rat, retirement of the rat is between 18 months to 2 years of age.
- The health and wellbeing of the rat is always the first and foremost concern during a competition
- While in the ring, rats are kept in metallic cages or in PVC tube resistant to dogs.
- At no time should there be direct contact between the rats and the dogs

17.1.1 Tubes cleaning

- The tubes used for the rats must be cleaned before and after every competition
  - Before and after the trial; ideally wash with a mild dish soap. Occasionnaly a more thorough wash may be required
  - During the trial; a dry or damp paper towel, an unscented baby wipe or the equivalent is sufficient

17.2 Tubes recognized by the Association de sports ratiers

The tubes used can be white, black, gray or brown.



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17.2.1 Material necessary in the making of an official tube for ratting sports

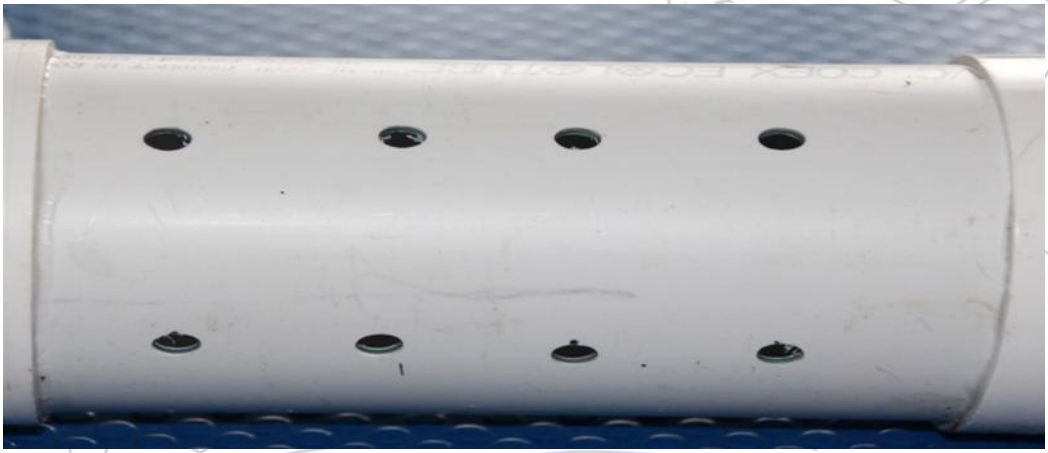
- 1 length of straight pvc pipe 4 inches in diameter and 10 inches long
- 1 drain cap of 4 inches
- 1 seethrough cap PVC / BNQ 4 inches
- 1 anchoring adaptor PVC/ BNQ 4 inches

Note: For the Ratissage game smaller (3 inches diameter) and shorter tubes are allowed.

17.3 Making the tube

17.3.1 The PVC tube

- 5 rows of holes will be drilled around the tube.
- Each row will be spaced about 6 centimeters apart.
- Each row will have 4 holes spaced about 3 centimeters apart.
- The diameter of the bit used to drill the holes is 9/32



17.3.2 Seethrough cap

- The seethrough cap will be pierced with 12 holes, 4 in the center and 8 along the edge
- The diameter of the bit used to drill the holes is 1/4

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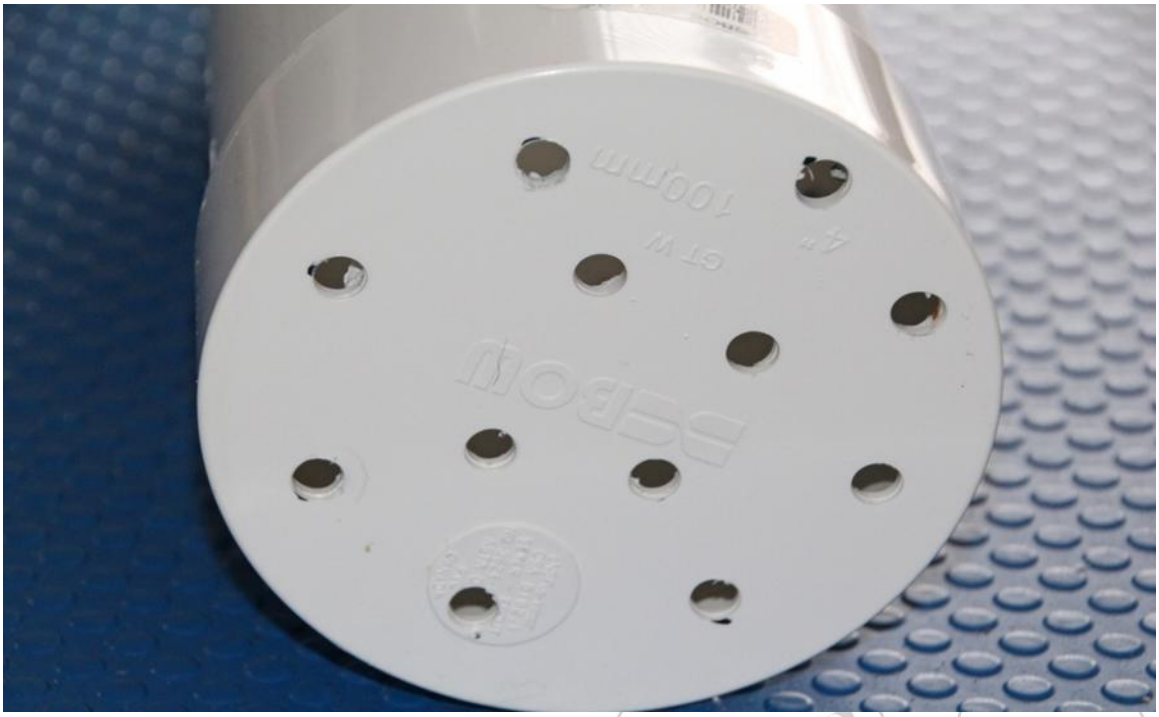

17.3.3 Opening cap

- Each cap can have an anchor to allow the tube to be fixed during the trials.
- A PVC glue is used to glue the pieces and a light sanding is recommended for a better adhesion between the pieces.

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18 SPECTATOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT

- A 'spectator' is considered as any person who is not participating in the competition and any competitor waiting their turn.
- Before interacting with a dog, permission must be obtained from the dog handler. This rule is especially important for children.
- Children (under 14 years old) must be accompanied by a responsible adult
- Spectators can sit or stand around the enclosure but must not be closer than 10 feet on all sides and must not block easy access to the enclosure
- Spectators can be accompanied by their dog as long as they are calm and quiet
- Out of respect for the competing teams, noisy dogs must be kept a minimum of 15 feet away from the enclosure
- It is forbidden for spectators to help the competing team with comments, remarks and/or gestures that could help them locate the rat(s)
    - Officials reserve the right to ask a participant to restart a run if they consider that he has received help from a spectator.

The officials reserve the right to give a warning or expel any and all spectators who disturb the running of the competition.

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19 ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICIALS

A judge is a person accredited as such by the ASR, able to do the duties of a judge during an event sanctionned by the ASR. A judge is an ambassador representing the ASR, as well as its philosophy and its values, both inside and around the ring.

19.1 Judge

To be accredited as a judge by the ASR, any interested personwill have

- Attend a training seminar for judges which includes theoretical and practical components.
- Successfully complete the entire training program
- Obtain his accreditation number from the Association de Sports Ratiers

19.1.1 General admission requirements

To be admissible as a candidate for the judges' training program with the ASR, the candidate must

- Be 18 or over on the first day of the clinic for judges
- Have been an active in ratting sports activities. This includes, but is not limited to, participation as a competitor, demonstrating a commitment to the sport by being a regular volunteer during practice or during sanctionned competitions, etc.
- Being physically able to perform the tasks of a judge. These tasks include, but are not limited to, moving haystacks during the construction of the events, standing for extended periods of time, moving to be in a position to clearly see each dog as it moves through the enclosure.

To maintain his accredition and his judge number with the ASR, a judge will have to regularly attend update workshops to keep abreast of the evolution of the regulations for his entire career.

A judge must know the rules and apply them according to the rule book. Otherwise, the judge will receive a warning from the ASR. Following a second warning, a disciplinary measure will be applied (to be determined according to the derogation).

Because a judge has final say on all proceedings inside the enclosure, he must be neutral and impartial at all times. He must respect the dogs and humans in all circumstances.

If a complaint is made against a judge, a warning may be issued by the ASR.

It is the judge's responsibility to ensure, before each level of a competition, that the enclosures are set according to the rules and that all is secure for dogs and humans.

A judge must make sure that the competitiors are aware and understand the regulations for the game in which they are about to participate. It is the judge's responsibility to make certain that all regulations are respected for all levels.

A judge must guarantee the maintenance and uniformity of playing times for all competitors, all different games and for all levels of expertise. No competitor should be favored or disadvantaged as to his playtime.

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It is the judge's responsibility to maintain order in the enclosure and within a 10 to 15-feet distance from the enclosure to ensure the well-being and enjoyment of the competitors and for the security of the judges and assistant judges and volunteers on duty during the trial.

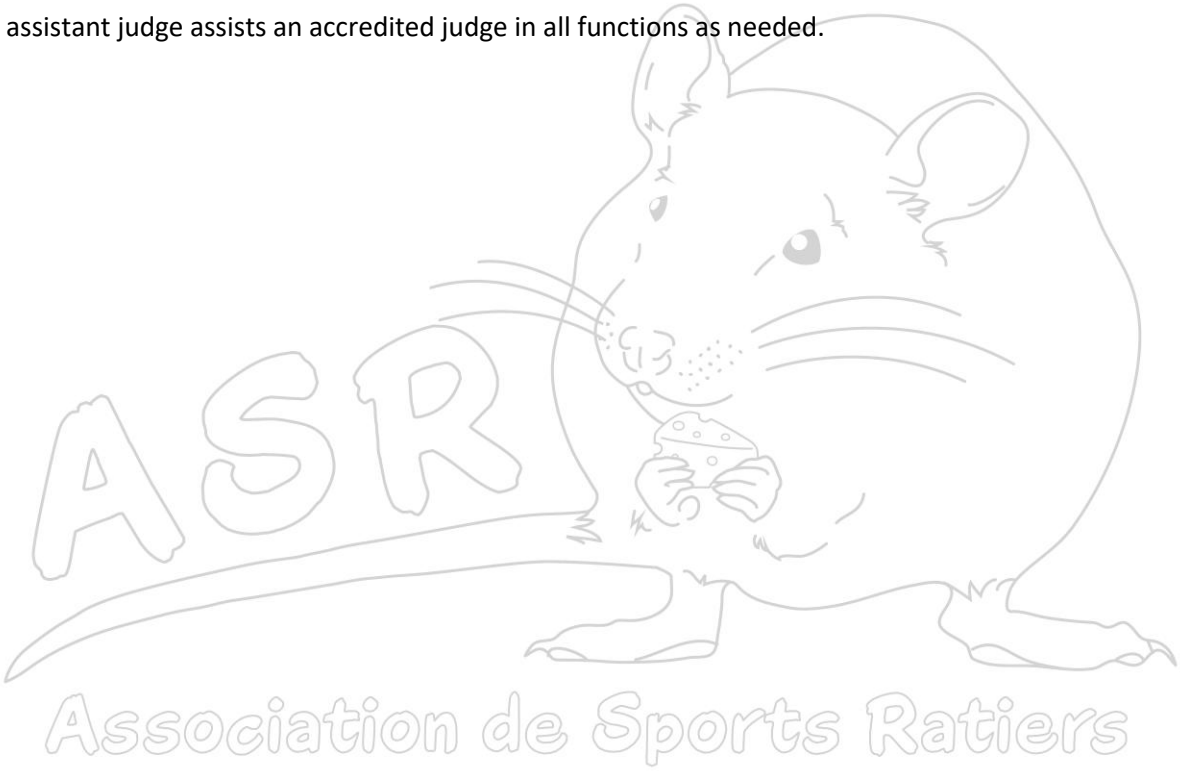
The judge must verify that all the final score sheets are filled correctly.

At all times, the judges have the right not to sanction a competition if the organizing club does not meet all the criteria required according to the rule book.

19.2 Assistant Judge

An assistant judge is a person who is at the last stage of training to become a judge. He attended the training workshop, successfully completed his theoretical exam and the mandatory practical sessions.

An assistant judge assists an accredited judge in all functions as needed.



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20 GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZING A TRIAL

In order to have an ASR sanctionned trial the club organizing the event must:

- Be accredited by the ASR
- Be knowledgeable and respect the rules and regulations of the ASR and apply them without exception
    - These rules have been established to ensure the well being and security of all participants: humans, dogs and rats.
- Register their event with the ASR within a reasonable delay, minimum of 8 weeks prior. This delay enables the ASR to advertise the event on it's Facebook page and validate that the selected judges are in good standing with the ASR.

Note: The minimum distance between two competition sites for the same weekend is 150 km

It is the responsibility of the organizing club to:

- Have the necessary documents for the accredited juges working the event
    - Score sheet
    - Results compilation sheet
- Ensure all ribbons and/or rosettes (Q's, placement, titles, etc.) are prepared and have the ASR official logo
- Hire judges duly accredited by the ASR
- If applicable, ensure the assistant juges are also in good standing
- Register all trial participants with their dog's ID number to ensure they are members of the ASR.
- Gather all information pertinent to the maintenance of the results database for each dog / member. (necessary forms are available from the ASR Website)
- Send to the ASR, within a week following the event a copy of the score sheets and compilation sheet (digital or paper format)
- Supply or acquire all necessary equipment
    - To minimize risks of injury to the dogs, the use straw bales is not recommended with the exception of wheat straw. The use of hay bales is strongly recommended.
- It is recommended to specify in the Premium whether the competition will be held indoors or outdoors and whether it is in an artificial or natural environment
- It is suggested to define a demarcated area for spectators so as not to disturb the searching dog

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ANNEXES

Appendix A – Titles Flowchart

TITLES CHART

Barn	Brush	Go-to-ground
Instinct (ICGR)	Instinct (ICBR)	Instinct (ICTA)
Novice (NCGR) **3 Q**	Novice (NCBR) **3 Q**	Novice (NCTA) **3 Q**
Master Novice (MNCGR) * **13 Q** novice level	Master Novice (MNCBR) * **13 Q** novice level	
Advanced (ACGR) **4 Q**	Advanced (ACBR) **4 Q**	Advanced (ACTA) **4 Q**
Master Advanced (MACGR) * **14 Q** advanced level	Master Advaned (MACBR)* **14 Q** advanced level	
Expert (ECGR) **5 Q**	Expert (ECBR) **5 Q**	Expert (ECTA) **5 Q**
Master Expert (MECGR) * **15 Q** expert level	Master Expert (MECBR) * **15 Q** expert level	
Champion (ChCGR) **7 Q** champion level	Champion (ChCBR) **7 Q** champion level	Champion (ChCTA) **7 Q** champion level
Master Champion (MChCGR) * **17 Q** champion level	Master Champion (MChCBR) * **17 Q** champion level	
Grand champion (GChCGR)** **8 Q** grand champion level	Grand champion (GChCBR)** **8 Q** grand champion level	
Excellent (CGRX) **10 Q** excellent level	Excellent (CBRX) **10 Q** excellent level	Excellent (CTAX) **10 Q** excellent level
Excellent bronze CGRXBr) **15 Q** excellent level	Excellent bronze (CBRXBr) **15 Q** excellent level	Excellent bronze (CTAXBr) **15 Q** excellent level
Excellent silver (CGRXAr) **20 Q** excellent level	Excellent silver (CBRXAr) **20 Q** excellent level	Excellent silver (CTAXAr) **20 Q** excellent level
Excellent gold (CGRXOr) **25 Q** excellent level	Excellent gold (CBRXOr) **25 Q** excellent level	Excellent gold (CTAXOr) **25 Q** excellent level
Outstanding hunter (CEmCGR) **30 Q** excellent level	Outstanding hunter (CEmCBR) **30 Q** excellent level	Outstanding hunter (CEmCTA) **30 Q** excellent level

* This title is not mandatory to move to the next level

** Starting January 1, 2025, the Grand Champion title is optional and will be no longer available after December 31, 2026.

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TITLES CHART (GAMES)

Combo	4 by 4	Challenge
Combo (CO) **2 Q**	4 by (4par4) **2 Q**	Challenge (DE) **2 Q**
Combo Bronze (COBr) **5 Q**	4 by 4 Bronze (4par4Br) **5 Q**	Challenge Bronze (DEBr) **5 Q**
Combo Silver (COAr) **10 Q**	4 by 4 Silver (4par4Ar) **10 Q**	Challenge Silver (DEAr) **10 Q**
Combo Gold (COOr) **20 Q**	4 by 4 Gold (4par4Or) **20 Q**	Challenge Gold (DEOr) **20 Q**
Combo Outstanding Hunter (COEm) **40 Q**	4 by 4 Outstanding Hunter (4par4Em) **40 Q**	Challenge Outstanding Hunter (DEEm) **40 Q**

Brush Relay	Barn Relay	Ratissage
(REBR) **2 Q**	Barn Hunting Relay (REGR) **2 Q**	Novice (RaNo) **5 Q** novice level
Brush Hunting Relay Bronze (REBRBr) **5 Q**	Barn Hunting Relay Bronze (REGRBr) **5 Q**	Advanced (RaAv) **7 Q** advanced level
Brush Hunting Relay Silver (REBRAr) **10 Q**	Barn Hunting Relay Silver (REGRAr) **10 Q**	Expert (RaEx) **10 Q** expert level
Brush Hunting Relay Gold (REBROr) **20 Q**	Barn Hunting Relay Gold (REGROr) **20 Q**	
Brush Hunting Relay Outstanding Hunter (REBREm) **40 Q**	Barn Hunting Relay Outstanding Hunter (REGREm) **40 Q**	

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TITLES CHART (GAMES)

Ga-Rat-Ge Interior	Ga-Rat-Ge Exterior
Novice (GRGN int)	Novice (GRGN ext)
3 Q novice level	**3 Q** novice level
Advanced (GRGA int)	Advanced (GRGA ext)
4 Q advanced level	**4 Q** advanced level
Expert (GRGE int)	Expert (GRGE ext)
5 Q expert level	**5 Q** expert level
Champion (GRGC int)	Champion (GRGC ext)
7 Q champion level	**7 Q** champion level
Champion Bronze (GRGCBr int)	Champion Bronze (GRGCBr ext)
12 Q champion level	**12 Q** champion level
Champion Silver (GRGCAr int)	Champion Silver (GRGCAr ext)
17 Q champion level	**17 Q** champion level
Champion Gold (GRGCOr int)	Champion Gold (GRGCOr ext)
22 Q champion level	**22 Q**champion level
Champion Sapphire (GRGCSa int)	Champion Sapphire (GRGCSa ext)
30 Q champion level	**30 Q**champion level
Champion Ruby(GRGCRu int)	Champion Ruby (GRGCRu ext)
38 Q champion level	**38 Q**champion level
Champion Diamond (GRGCDia int)	Champion Diamond (GRGCDia ext)
46 Q champion level	**46 Q**champion level

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TITLES CHART (GAMES)

Rat-Mouflage	Rat-Byrinthe	Rat-Haut
Novice (RMNo)	Novice (RBNo)	Novice (RHNo)
120 points novice level	**120 points** novice level	**300 points** novice level
Advanced (RMAv)	Advanced (RBAv)	Advanced (RHAv)
200 points advanced level	**200 points** advanced level	**400 points** advanced level
Expert (RMEx)	Expert (RBEx)	Expert (RHEx)
300 points expert level	**300 points** expert level	**400 points** expert level
Champion (RMCh)	Champion (RBCh)	Champion (RHCh)
420 points champion level	**420 points** champion level	**500 points** champion level
Champion Bronze (RMChBr)	Champion Bronze (RBChBr)	Excellent (RHX)
620 points champion level	**620 points** champion level	**500 points** excellent level
Champion Silver (RMChAr)	Champion Silver (RBChAr)	Excellent Bronze (RHXBr)
820 points champion level	**820 points** champion level	**1000 points** excellent level
Champion Gold (RMChOr)	Champion Gold (RBChOr)	Excellent Silver (RHXAr)
1020 points champion level	**1020 points** champion level	**1500 points** excellent level
Champion Sapphire (RMChSa)	Champion Sapphire (RBChSa)	Excellent Gold (RHXOr)
1420 points champion level	**1420 points** champion level	**2000 points** excellent level
Champion Ruby (RMChRu)	Champion Ruby (RBChRu)	Excellent Sapphire (RHXSa)
1820 points champion level	**1820 points** champion level	**2800 points** excellent level
Champion Diamond (RMChDia)	Champion Diamond (RBChDia)	Excellent Ruby (RHXRu)
2200 points champion level	**2200 points** champion level	**3600 points** excellent level
		Excellent Diamond (RHXDia)
		4400 points excellent level

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Annex B – Summary tables

BRUSH	INSTINCT	NOVICE/ MASTER NOVICE	ADVANCED/ MASTER ADVANCED	EXPERT/ MASTER EXPERT	CHAMPION/ GRAND CHAMPION/ MASTER CHAMPION	EXCELLENT
Enclosure size (indoor/outdoor) ft^2	200	200	300	400	400 (600)**	400 (600)**
Minimal enclosure width (feet)	10	10	10	10	10 (20)**	10 (20)**
Number of hay bales Indoor and exterior artificial	7-9	7-9	11-15	20-25	25-30	30-35
Number of stacks Indoor and exterior artificial	1	1	2	5	6	6
Number of tubes	1	1	1	1	2	3
Number of rats	1	1	1	1	2	3
Maximum tube height	on ground	on ground	on ground	on ground	on ground	on ground or hay bale
Tubes depths in hay	recessed 2"	recessed 2"	recessed 2"	recessed 2" to 4" pack hay	recessed 4" to 6" pack hay	recessed 4" to 6" pack hay
Time without talking in the starting box (sec)	60	60	60	60	60 (65)**	80 (85) **
Time without talking or pointing with the dog (sec)	20*	20*	10*	0*	0*	0*
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	80*	80*	70*	60*	60 (65)**	80 (85) **
Additional time to complete search without Q (sec)	40	40	50	60	60 (55) **	40 (35)**

NOTE:

Starting box must be at least 5 feet from any stack

Outside, in natural environment, use branches, leaves , brush, rocks, holes etc. depending on the area

*** An additionnal 15 secondes is added for veteran dogs**

**** Numbers in ( ) refer to outdoor set-up in a natural environment**

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BARN	INSTINCT	NOVICE/ MASTER NOVICE	ADVANCED/ MASTER ADVANCED	EXPERT/ MASTER EXPERT	CHAMPION/ GRAND CHAMPION/ MASTER CHAMPION	EXCELLENT
Enclosure size (ft2)	200	200	300	400	400	400
Minimal enclosure width (feet)	10	10	10	10	15	15
Hay bales number	7-9	7-9	11-15	20-25	25-30	30-35
Hay bales set-up	"I"	"I"	"I"	2"I", "L"	"U", "T", 2"L", 3"I"	"T" "H" "UU"
Minimum height (stacking) of hay bales	2	2	2	3	3	3
Total number of tubes	3	3	4	6	7-8	9-11
Number of clean/odorless tubes	1	1	1	0	0	0
Number of tubes with litter	1	1	2	4	5-6	6-8
Number of tubes with rats	1	1	1	2	2	3
Maximum tube height	on ground	on ground	on ground	hay bale	hay bale	hay bale
Minimum number of tubes in height	0	0	0	2	0 à 8	0 à 11
Location of tubes with rats	on ground	on ground	on ground	on ground or hay bale	on ground or hay bale	on ground or hay bale
Tubes depth in hay bales	Protrude 1"	Protrude 1"	Flush	Embeded 1"	Embeded 2"	Embeded 2' min
Visibility of tubes	visible	visible	visible	visible	visible	visible
Searching time without talking/pointing (sec)	30	30	45	60	75	80
Additional time talking/pointing (sec)	60*	60*	45*	30*	15*	10*
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	90*	90*	90*	90*	90*	90*
Additional time to complete search without Q (sec)	30	30	30	30	30	30

NOTE:

"U" shape must be at least 12 ft width. "T" shape is a double "L" back-to-back with tubes on each side

*** An additionnal 15 secondes is added for veteran dogs**

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GO-TO-GROUND	INSTINCT	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXPERT	CHAMPION	EXCELLENT
Distance start line / tunnel entrance (inches) and position	6" in front	6" in front	12" in front	18" in front	24" away and 90 degree entry angle	48" away and entry angle at judge`s discretion
Minimum enclosure size at the tunnel entrance (feet)	5 x 5	5 x 5	5 x 5	10 x 10	12 x 12	15 X 15
Total length of the tunnel (feet)	12	12	16	24	24	28
Number of 90 degrees turn	1	1	2	3	3	4
Number of dead ends	0	0	0	0	0	1
Marking time required for a "Q" (seconds)	20	20	40	60	60	60
Number of times the dog can go out and re-enter the tunnel	infinity	infinity	1	0	0	0
Maximum time to reach the rat cage	36	36	32	36	36	40

ATTENTION: No tunnel winding, the rat cage must remain away from the tunnel entrance
In Instinct / Novice the handler can touch his dog to re-align the dog to the tunnel entrance but not for the other levels

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	Barn Relay	Brush Relay	Combo**	4 BY 4 *	Challenge
Starting box	**2**	**2**	**1** starting of 4' x 3' **2** displacement of 2'x2'	**1**	**1**
Enclosure size (indoor / outdoor) ft2	**400**	**400**	**400**	**400**	**400**
Enclosure minimal width (feet)	**15**	**15**	**15**	**15**	**15**
Number of Haystacks Indoor and Outdoor Artificial	**25-35**	**20-25**	**25 à 35**	**25 à 35**	**25 à 35**
Number of stations Indoor and Outdoor Artificial	"T" "H" or "UU" layout	minimum **5**	**6 stacks minimum** with 1 straight line of 2 levels done with 8-10 bales and 5 stacks or +	minimum **6**	double **U** or double **L** or **3 separate lines**
Number of tubes	**8**	**2**	**9**	**8**	**12 à 15**
Number of rats	**2**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**3 à 5**
Number of tubes with litter	**6**	**0**	**6**	**4**	**3 à 5**
Maximal height of the tubes	on ground or haystack	on ground or haystack	for brush and barn sections: on ground and/or haystack height	on ground or haystack	on ground or haystack
Visibility of the tubes	Recessed 2''	recessed 2'' to 4'' hidden by pack hay	barn portion: embedded 2'' brush portion: recessed 2'' to 4'' hidden by pack hay	recessed 2'' to 4'' hidden by pack hay	Recessed 2'' minimum
Time without speaking in the starting box (sec)	Can move without speaking or pointing	**60**	maximum 2 moves allowed to the 2 displacement boxes, without speaking or pointing	without speaking or moving for any of the 4 participants	can move but without speaking or pointing during 90 sec
Time with the dog without speaking or pointing (sec)		**0**			
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	**60**	**60**	**75 ** **	**120**	**90**
Additionnal time to complete search without "Q" (sec)	**60**	**60**	**0**	**0**	**0**

* In 4 by 4 there are 4 teams, 3 of which waiting outside near the entrance and enter in turn if the team inside requests it or if the rat is found, respecting the judge's instructions

** An additionnal 15 secondes is added for veteran dogs

Brush Relay: Set-up is as per Expert Brush with two starting boxes
Barn Relay: Set-up is as per Excellent Barn with two starting boxes

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RATISSAGE	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXPERT		
Wooded enclosure size (ft2)	3000	4500	4500		
Field enclosure size (ft2)	TBD	TBD	TBD		
Half and Half enclosure size (ft2)	TBD	TBD	TBD		
Number of tubes	1	2 to 4	2 to 4		
Number of tubes with rats	1	1	2		
Number of clean/odorless tubes	0	1 to 3	1 to 3		
Maximum tube height	on ground	on ground	on ground		
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	60*	90*	TBD		

NOTE:

Search area is not fenced but limits are marked with ribbons, flags or cones

*** An additionnal 15 secondes is added for veteran dogs**

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Ga-Rat-Ge	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXPERT	CHAMPION
Enclosure size (ft2)	200 (300)*	400 (500)*	400 (600)*	400 (600)*
Minimal enclosure width (feet)	10	10	10	10
Total number of required objects	15 to 20	20 to 30	25 to 30	30 to 40 (min 40)*
Number of tubes	4 or 5	4 to 7	6	8
Other mandatory objects	none	1 dog toy 2 containers with kibbles	2 dog toys 2 containers with treats	4 dog toys 2 tubes with human food
Number of tubes with rats	1	1	2	2
Number of clean/odorless tubes	3 or 4	1 to 4	0	0
Number of tubes with litter	0	2	4	4
Maximum tube height	on ground	on ground	on groung or up to 36"	on groung or up to 36"
Time without talking in the starting box (sec)	60	80	90	85 (100)*
Temps maximum pour avoir un "Q" (sec)	60	80	90	85 (100)*

NOTE:

Starting box must be minimum 5 ft away from any object

*** Numbers between ( ) refer to exterior set-up**

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Rat-Mouflage	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXPERT	CHAMPION
Enclosure size (ft2)	300 (300)*	400 (400)*	400 (400)*	400 (400)*
Minimal enclosure width (feet)	10	10	10	10
Total number of tubes	4	6	7	9
Number of tubes with rats	1	1	2	2
Number of clean/odorless tubes	3	2	0	0
Number of tubes with litter	0	3	4	4
Number of tubes with food	0	0	1 (dog food)	3 (human food)
Other mandatory objects	none	3 toys, noe squeak	3 toys, no squeak 2 perforated objects with dog food or treats	6 toys, might squeak 2 perforated objects with dog food or treats
Number of additionnal divers objects**	11	16	25	25
Total number of objects(tubes+toys+objects)	15	25	35	40
Maximum tube height	ground	ground	ground or up to 24"	ground or up to 24"
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	60	70	80	80
Points (without help/with help)	40/30	50/40	60/30	See note

NOTE:

*** Numbers between ( ) refer to exterior set-up**

****Objects shape must emulate tubes**

Toys must be visible and accessible

In Champion points are 70/35

In Champion Bronze to Diamond points are 50/25

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Rat-Byrinthe	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXPERT	CHAMPION
Enclosure size (ft2)	300 (300)*	400 (400)*	400 (400)*	400 (400)*
Minimal enclosure width (feet)	10	10	10	10
Total number of tubes	4	6	7	9
Number of tubes with rats	1	1	2	2 (at least 1 hidden)
Number of clean/odorless tubes	3	2	0	0
Number of tubes with litter	0	3	4	4
Number of tubes with food	0	0	1 (dog food)	3 (human food)
Other mandatory objects	none	3 toys, noe squeak	3 toys, no squeak 2 perforated objects with dog food or treats	6 toys, might squeak 2 perforated objects with human food
Number of additionnal divers objects	11	16	25	25
Total number of objects(tubes+toys+objects)	15	25	35	40
Maximum tube height	ground	ground	ground or up to 24"	ground or up to 24"
Ring set-up	4 V (5' to 8')	4 V (5' to 8') 1 U or zigzag (10' to 12') Possibility of 1 dead end	2 V (5' to 8') 2 U or zigzag (10' to 12') 2 dead ends (min 5')	Ring divided in 2 by a 5' wide corridor 2 zigzag dead ends (6' to 10'), 1 in each half
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	60	70	80	80
Points (without help/with help)	40/30	50/40	60/30	See note

NOTE:

*** Numbers between ( ) refer to exterior set-up**

Toys must be visible and accessible

In Champion points are 70/35

In Champion Bronze to Diamond points are 50/25

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Rat-Haut	NOVICE	ADVANCED	EXPERT	CHAMPION	EXCELLENT
Enclosure size (ft2)	300 (300)*	400 (400)*	400 (400)*	400 (400)*	400 (400)*
Minimal enclosure width (feet)	10	10	10	10	10
Total number of tubes	10	13	13	15	15
Number of tubes with rats	1	1	2	2	2**
Number of clean/odorless tubes	5	8	8	8	8
Number of tubes with litter	4	4	3	3	3
Number of tubes with food	0	0	0	2 (dog food/treats)	2 (dog and/or human food)
Other mandatory objects	none	3 toys, no squeak	6 toys, no squeak	6 tous, some could have squeak	6 toys, some must have squeak
Maximum tube height	between 12'' and 30''	between 12'' and 30''	between 12'' and 30''	between 12'' and 30''	between 12'' and 30''
Ring set-up	1 U or zigzag (10' to 12')	2 U or zigzag or rond (10' to 12')	3 U or zigzag or rond (10' to 12')	3 U or zigzag or rond (10' to 12')	3 U or zigzag or rond (10' to 12')
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	50	60	60	75	90
Maximum score	less than 30 sec - 100 points	less than 30 sec - 100 points	less than 30 sec - 100 points	less than 30 sec - 100 points	less than 40 sec - 100 points
Minimum score	30 sec or more - 50 points	30 sec or more - 50 points	30 sec or more - 50 points	30 sec or more - 50 points	40 sec or more - 50 points

NOTE:

*** Numbers between ( ) refer to exterior set-up**

**** In Excellent, found rat remains in place while search of the second rat continues**

Toys must be visible, suspended and accessible

Tubes must be held horizontally by 2 non-strechable straps

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ADDITIONNAL TIME FOR VETERAN DOGS

Barn, Brush, Ratissage and Combo

An additionnal 15 seconds is added to all levels for these disciplines to obtain a Q

VETERAN DOG CRITERIAS

Tall Breeds:	5 years and over 24 inches or more at shoulder
Other size Breeds:	8 years and over Less than 24 inches at shoulder

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Annex C – Special cases

A. Blind dog

1. BRUSH

All the criteria defined previously apply except for the following points:

1.1. Identifying the location of the rat(s)

Novice

- Initially, the participant does not know the location of the tube.
- During the first minute, only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area.
- The participant is entitled to a starting order and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise** during 30 seconds. After 30 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog while remaining in the starting area. He can verbally encourage his dog or make noises with his mouth. In no case can he steer his dog (right, left, etc.)
- At 60 seconds, the participant can leave the start zone and move around the enclosure.
- At 80 seconds (1m 20s), the judges will indicate the location of the tube. The participant can then go to it. In no time can he direct his dog directly. The participant can position himself near the tube and encourage his dog to come and search.
- Under no circumstances may the participant touch his dog or the tube during qualifying time otherwise the team is disqualified.

Advanced

- Initially, the participant does not know the location of the tube.
- During the first minute, only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area.
- The participant is entitled to a starting order and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise** during 40 seconds. After 40 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog while remaining in the starting area. He can verbally encourage his dog or make noises with his mouth. In no case can he steer his dog (right, left, etc.)
- At 60 seconds, the participant can leave the start zone and move around the enclosure.
- At 80 seconds (1m 20s), the judges will indicate the location of the tube. The participant can then go to it. In no time can he direct his dog directly. The participant can position himself near the tube and encourage his dog to come and search.
- Under no circumstances may the participant touch his dog or the tube during qualifying time otherwise the team is disqualified.

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Expert

- Initially, the participant does not know the location of the tube.
- During the first minute, only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area.
- The participant is entitled to a starting order and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise** during 50 seconds. After 50 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog while remaining in the starting area. He can verbally encourage his dog or make noises with his mouth. In no case can he steer his dog (right, left, etc.)
- At 60 seconds, the participant can leave the start zone and move around the enclosure.
- At 90 seconds (1m 30s), the judges will indicate the location of the tube. The participant can then go to it. In no time can he direct his dog directly. The participant can position himself near the tube and encourage his dog to come and search.
- Under no circumstances may the participant touch his dog or the tube during qualifying time otherwise the team is disqualified.

Champion (Grand Champion)

- Initially, the participant does not know the location of the tube.
- During the first 45 seconds, only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area.
- The participant is entitled to a starting order and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise** during 30 seconds. After 30 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog while remaining in the starting area. He can verbally encourage his dog or make noises with his mouth. In no case can he steer his dog (right, left, etc.)
- At 45 seconds, the participant can leave the start zone and move around the enclosure.
- At 60 seconds (1m), the judges will indicate the location of the tubes. The participant can then go to it. In no time can he direct his dog directly. The participant can position himself near the tube and encourage his dog to come and search.
- Under no circumstances may the participant touch his dog or the tube during qualifying time otherwise the team is disqualified.

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Excellent

- Initially, the participant does not know the location of the tube.
- During the first 45 seconds, only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area.
- The participant is entitled to a starting order and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise** during 30 seconds. After 30 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog while remaining in the starting area. He can verbally encourage his dog or make noises with his mouth. In no case can he steer his dog (right, left, etc.)
- At 45 seconds, the participant can leave the start zone and move around the enclosure.
- At 60 seconds (1m), the judges will indicate the location of the tubes. The participant can then go to it. In no time can he direct his dog directly. The participant can position himself near the tube and encourage his dog to come and search.

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- Under no circumstances may the participant touch his dog or the tube during qualifying time otherwise the team is disqualified.

1.2. Qualifying score

The team will earn a qualifying score when the rat is identified, to the satisfaction of the judge, within the following parameters:

- Novice: 110 seconds (1m 50s)
- Advanced: 120 seconds (2m)
- Expert: 110 seconds (1m 50s)
- Champion (Grand Champion): 100 seconds (1m 40s)
- Excellent: 120 seconds (2m)

2. BARN

All the criteria defined previously apply except for the following points:

2.1 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

Novice

- A time of 90 seconds (1m 30s) is allocated to the team for the research of the rat as stipulated in the table of parameters established by level
- During the first 15 seconds, only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area. The participant is entitled to a starting order and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise**.
- At 15 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog while remaining in the starting area. He can encourage his dog and verbally direct him to the tubes.
- At 30 seconds, the participant can leave the starting zone and move around the enclosure. He can scratch the tubes but can not touch his dog at any time.

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Advanced

- A time of 90 seconds (1m 30s) is allocated to the team for the research of the rat as stipulated in the table of parameters established by level
- During the first 20 seconds, only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area. The participant is entitled to a starting order and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise**.
- At 20 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog while remaining in the starting area. He can encourage his dog and verbally direct him to the tubes.
- At 45 seconds, the participant can leave the starting zone and move around the enclosure. He can scratch the tubes but can not touch his dog at any time.

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Expert

- A time of 120 seconds (2m) is allocated to the team for the research of the rats as stipulated in the table of parameters established by level
- During the first 30 seconds, only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area. The participant is entitled to a starting order and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise**.
- At 30 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog while remaining in the starting area. He can encourage his dog and verbally direct him to the tubes.
- At 45 seconds, the participant can leave the starting zone and move around the enclosure. He can encourage and call his dog but not direct him. He is not allowed to touch his dog or the tubes.
- At 70 seconds (1m 10s), the participant can scratch the tubes but can not touch his dog at any time.

Champion (Grand Champion)

- A time of 120 seconds (2m) is allocated to the team for the research of the rats as stipulated in the table of parameters established by level
- During the first 30 seconds, only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area. The participant is entitled to a starting order and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise**.
- At 30 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog while remaining in the starting area. He can encourage his dog and verbally direct him to the tubes.
- At 45 seconds, the participant can leave the starting zone and move around the enclosure. He can encourage and call his dog but not direct him. He is not allowed to touch his dog or the tubes.
- At 75 seconds (1m 15s), the participant can scratch the tubes but can not touch his dog at any time.

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Excellent

- A time of 120 seconds (2m) is allocated to the team for the research of the rats as stipulated in the table of parameters established by level
- During the first 20 seconds, only the dog is allowed to enter the searching area. The participant is entitled to a starting order and must then remain in the starting box, **in silence and without making any noise**.
- At 20 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog while remaining in the starting area. He can encourage his dog and verbally direct him to the tubes.

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- At 40 seconds, the participant can leave the starting zone and move around the enclosure. He can encourage and call his dog but not direct him. He is not allowed to touch his dog or the tubes.
- At 60 seconds (1m), the participant can scratch the tubes but can not touch his dog at any time.

2.2 Qalifying score

The team will earn a qualifying score when the rat is identified, to the satisfaction of the judge, within the following parameters:

- Novice: 90 seconds (1m 30s)
- Advanced: 90 seconds (1m 30s)
- Expert: 120 seconds (2m)
- Champion (Grand Champion): 120 seconds (2m)
- Excellent: 120 seconds (2m)

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BLIND DOG

BRUSH	INSTINCT	NOVICE/ MASTER NOVICE	ADVANCED/ MASTER ADVANCED	EXPERT/ MASTER EXPERT	CHAMPION/ GRAND CHAMPION/ MASTER CHAMPION	EXCELLENT
Enclosure size (indoor/outdoor) ft^2	200	200	300	400	400 (600)**	400 (600)**
Minimal enclosure width (feet)	10	10	10	10	10 (20)**	10 (20)**
Indoor and exterior artificial	7-9	7-9	11-15	20-25	25-30	30-35
Indoor and exterior artificial	1	1	2	5	6	6
Number of tubes	1	1	1	1	2	3
Number of rats	1	1	1	1	2	3
Maximum tube height	on ground	on ground	on ground	on ground	on ground or hay bale	on ground or hay bale
Tubes depths in hay	recessed 2"	recessed 2"	recessed 2"	recessed 2" to 4" pack hay	recessed 4" to 6" pack hay	recessed 4" to 6" pack hay
Time without talking in the starting box (sec)	30	30	40	50	30	30
Time talking in the starting box (sec)	30	30	20	10	15	15
Time talking with the dog (sec)	50	50	60	50	55	75
Judge advise of the location of the rat (sec)	80	80	80	90	60	60
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	110	110	120	110	100	120
Additional time to complete search without Q (sec)	30	30	30	30	30	30

NOTE:

Starting box must be at least 5 feet from any stack

Outside, in natural environment, use branches, leaves , brush, rocks, holes etc. depending on the area

*** An additionnal 15 secondes is added for veteran dogs**

**** Numbers in ( ) refer to outdoor set-up in a natural environment**

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BLIND DOG

BARN	INSTINCT	NOVICE/ MASTER NOVICE	ADVANCED/ MASTER ADVANCED	EXPERT/ MASTER EXPERT	CHAMPION/ GRAND CHAMPION/ MASTER CHAMPION	EXCELLENT
Enclosure size ft2	200	200	300	400	400	400
Minimal enclosure width (feet)	10	10	10	10	15	15
Hay bales number	7-9	7-9	11-15	20-25	25-30	30-35
Hay bales set-up	"I"	"I"	"I"	2"I", "L"	"U", "T", 2"L", 3"I"	"T" "H" "UU"
Minimum height (stacking) of hay bales	2	2	2	3	3	3
Total number of tubes	3	3	4	6	7-8	9-11
Number of clean/odorless tubes	1	1	1	0	0	0
Number of tubes with litter	1	1	2	4	5-6	6-8
Number of tubes with rats	1	1	1	2	2	3
Maximum tube height	on ground	on ground	on ground	hay bale	hay bale	hay bale
Minimum number of tubes in height	0	0	0	2	0 to 8	0 to11
Location of tubes with rats	on ground	on ground	on ground	on ground or hay bale	on ground or hay bale	on ground or hay bale
Tubes depth in hay bales	Protrude 1 in.	Protrude 1 in.	Flush	Embeded 1 in.	Embeded 2 in.	Embeded 2 in. Minimum
Visibility of tubes	visible	visible	visible	visible	visible	visible
Searching time without talking in the starting box (sec)	15	15	20	30	30	20
Searching time talking in the starting box (sec)	15	15	25	15	15	20
Searching time talking but not scratching (sec)	0	0	0	25	30	20
Searching time talking/scratching (sec)	60	60	45	50	45	60
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	90	90	90	120	120	120
Additional time to complete search without Q (sec)	30	30	30	30	30	30

NOTE:

"U" shape must be at least 12 pi./width. "T" shape is a double "L" back-to-back with tubes on each side

*** An additionnal 15 secondes is added for veteran dogs**

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B. Deaf and Blind dog

1. BRUSH

All the criteria defined previously apply except for the following points:

1.3. Identifying the location of the rat(s)

Novice

- Initially, the participant does not know the location of the tube.
- The participant is entitled to a starting order.
- As soon as the dog has left the starting box, the participant can move around the enclosure, silently and without making any noise
- At 45 seconds, the judge will indicate the location of the tube. The participant can then make noise, stamp their feet/hands, speak, whistle, etc. He has the right to do everything except touch his dog and/or guide him physically
- Under no circumstances may the participant touch his dog or the tube during qualifying time otherwise the team is disqualified.

Advanced

- Initially, the participant does not know the location of the tube.
- The participant is entitled to a starting order.
- As soon as the dog has left the starting box, the participant can move around the enclosure, silently and without making any noise
- At 60 seconds, the judge will indicate the location of the tube. The participant can then make noise, stamp their feet/hands, speak, whistle, etc. He has the right to do everything except touch his dog and/or guide him physically
- Under no circumstances may the participant touch his dog or the tube during qualifying time otherwise the team is disqualified.

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1.4. Qualifying score

The team will earn a qualifying score when the rat is identified, to the satisfaction of the judge, within the following parameters:

- Novice: 110 seconds (1m 50s)
- Advanced: 120 seconds (2m)
- Expert: 110 seconds (1m 50s)
- Champion (Grand Champion): 100 seconds (1m 40s)
- Excellent: 120 seconds (2m)

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2. BARN

All the criteria defined previously apply except for the following points:

2.3 Identifying the location of the rat(s)

Novice

- A time of 90 seconds (1m 30s) is allocated to the team for the research of the rat as stipulated in the table of parameters established by level
- During the first 30 seconds, the participant is allowed to accompany his dog in the enclosure but must remain silent and not make any noise
- At 30 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog, make noise to attract it, stamp their feet/hands, whistle, scratch the tubes, etc. but must not touch his dog
- At 70 seconds, the participant can now touch his dog to redirect it but is not allowed to direct it manually

Advanced

- A time of 90 seconds (1m 30s) is allocated to the team for the research of the rat as stipulated in the table of parameters established by level
- During the first 40 seconds, the participant is allowed to accompany his dog in the enclosure but must remain silent and not make any noise
- At 40 seconds, the participant can talk to his dog, make noise to attract it, stamp their feet/hands, whistle, scratch the tubes, etc. but must not touch his dog
- At 75 seconds, the participant can now touch his dog to redirect it but is not allowed to direct it manually

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BLIND and DEAF DOG

BRUSH	INSTINCT	NOVICE/ MASTER NOVICE	ADVANCED/ MASTER ADVANCED	EXPERT/ MASTER EXPERT	CHAMPION/ GRAND CHAMPION/ MASTER CHAMPION	EXCELLENT
Enclosure size (indoor/outdoor) ft^2	200	200	300	400	400 (600)**	400 (600)**
Minimal enclosure width (feet)	10	10	10	10	10 (20)**	10 (20)**
Indoor and exterior artificial	7-9	7-9	11-15	20-25	25-30	30-35
Indoor and exterior artificial	1	1	2	5	6	6
Number of tubes	1	1	1	1	2	3
Number of rats	1	1	1	1	2	3
Maximum tube height	on ground	on ground	on ground	on ground	on ground or hay bale	on ground or hay bale
Tubes depths in hay	recessed 2"	recessed 2"	recessed 2"	recessed 2" to 4" pack hay	recessed 4" to 6" pack hay	recessed 4" to 6" pack hay
Time without talking with the dog (sec)	45	45	60	TBD	TBD	TBD
Judge advise of the location of the rat (sec)	45	45	60	TBD	TBD	TBD
Time helping dog (talk. Noise, etc) without touching it	65	65	60	TBD	TBD	TBD
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	110	110	120	110	100	120
Additional time to complete search without Q (sec)	30	30	30	30	30	30

NOTE:

Starting box must be at least 5 feet from any stack

Outside, in natural environment, use branches, leaves , brush, rocks, holes etc. depending on the area

*** An additionnal 15 secondes is added for veteran dogs**

**** Numbers in ( ) refer to outdoor set-up in a natural environment**

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BLIND and DEAF DOG

BARN	INSTINCT	NOVICE/ MASTER NOVICE	ADVANCED/ MASTER ADVANCED	EXPERT/ MASTER EXPERT	CHAMPION/ GRAND CHAMPION/ MASTER CHAMPION	EXCELLENT
Enclosure size ft2	200	200	300	400	400	400
Minimal enclosure width (feet)	10	10	10	10	15	15
Hay bales number	7-9	7-9	11-15	20-25	25-30	30-35
Hay bales set-up	"I"	"I"	"I"	2"I", "L"	"U", "T", 2"L", 3"I"	"T" "H" "UU"
Minimum height (stacking) of hay bales	2	2	2	3	3	3
Total number of tubes	3	3	4	6	7-8	9-11
Number of clean/odorless tubes	1	1	1	0	0	0
Number of tubes with litter	1	1	2	4	5-6	6-8
Number of tubes with rats	1	1	1	2	2	3
Maximum tube height	on ground	on ground	on ground	hay bale	hay bale	hay bale
Minimum number of tubes in height	0	0	0	2	0 to 8	0 to 11
Location of tubes with rats	on ground	on ground	on ground	on ground or hay bale	on ground or hay bale	on ground or hay bale
Tubes depth in hay bales	Protrude 1 in.	Protrude 1 in.	Flush	Embeded 1 in.	Embeded 2 in.	Embeded 2 in. Minimum
Visibility of tubes	visible	visible	visible	visible	visible	visible
Searching time without talking with the dog (sec)	30	30	40	TBD	TBD	TBD
Time helping dog (talk. Noise, etc) without touching it	40	40	35	TBD	TBD	TBD
Time helping dog (talk. Noise, etc) could touch it	20	20	15	TBD	TBD	TBD
Maximum time to "Q" (sec)	90	90	90	120	120	120
Additional time to complete search without Q (sec)	30	30	30	30	30	30

NOTE:

"U" shape must be at least 12 pi./width. "T" shape is a double "L" back-to-back with tubes on each side

*** An additionnal 15 secondes is added for veteran dogs**

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