

Barn Hunt Overview

Barn Hunt is based on the traditional roles of many breeds in ridding farms, barns, crop storage areas, and homes of destructive vermin. Some breeds were specifically created to fill this role, and for many of those breeds, Barn Hunt provides their first true opportunity for responsible breeders to test proper working traits in their dogs. Barn Hunt is also open to any dog of any breed or mix who wishes to play the game and can fit through an 18" wide by bale-height tall tunnel. Barn Hunt has titles, levels of increasing difficulty, and championships. Barn Hunt is an independent sport, but titles are recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC), the United Kennel Club (UKC), and the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). To see how to get your title recognized, go to FAQs and About (AKC/UKC/CKC).

Barn Hunt holds rat care at the highest level of consideration. The rats used in Barn Hunt are beloved family pets. They jump eagerly into their safe, comfortable aerated tubes and truly enjoy interacting with the dogs.

We're a great sport for older dogs, and older people too! Tripod dogs can compete, and so can deaf dogs. Blind dogs and dogs in wheeled carts can compete in Line Drive.

Dos and Dont's While In the Ring at Trials

Handlers may do and/or are encouraged to:

- a) Move around the course while the dog works to be able to view and call the mark of the correct live rat tube.
- b) Speak and gesture at will and verbally praise and encourage the dog to search certain areas, climb and/or tunnel through voice and/or hand gestures.
- c) Step over (but not on) the Instinct cradle.
- d) Tip up or move a bale (such as a leaner) to access a tube for removal. If the competitor does not return the bale to its original position without delay and before moving on, the bale will remain where it falls for the duration of the run even if it blocks other parts of the course or the tunnel.
- e) Touch/Reward/praise their dog after they have called Rat and at the end of their run (see Allowed Praise)
- f) Carry their dogs into and out of the ring.
- g) Wear gloves in the ring.
- h) Touch the outer barrier or a post as a balance aid.
- i) Use bales/boards or other course equipment to catch themselves if they slip and/or as an aid to get back up if they fall.
- j) Use an obedience command such as sit or down for control.
- k) Stand in front of the tunnel opening after the dog has entered to encourage the dog to go through. However, if the dog backs out and touches the handler's body, or the handler in any way touches the side bales or the board while attempting to block the dog, it is considered a deliberate touch and will result in an NQ score.

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The handler must not:

- a) Bring food or toys into the ring. Self-time in the ring.
- b) Enter the ring with bait bags, pouches,, timing devices, or other attachments (including cameras and poop bag holders). Any- thing hanging from the handler which may be considered a aid may also be ruled an attachment.
- c) Carry the leash in the hand or hand the leash to the judge.
- d) Deliberately lead out from the start box to get an advantage. The handler and dog should leave at approximately the same time. An inadvertent lead out (e.g., handler leaves box and dog fails to move with handler) is not penalized (see “Inadvertent Lead Outs”.
- e) Bowl or Drop the dog to start. Bowling is pushing/shoving/tugging the dog forward during the release.
- f) Touch, sit on, or step on/over any bales, boards, ramps, steps, bridges, tubes, or other course equipment except as outlined above and in Allowed Praise and Reward and Safely Handling/Removing the Rat Tubes sections.
- g) Deliberately use hands or feet to sweep or shuffle through straw to try to find a hidden tube.
- h) Touch the dog at any time after the release from the start box and before the finish of the course except for during the Allowed Praise and Reward period after a live tube is correctly located. The dog brushing, touching, or jumping up on the handler will not be faulted unless the handler is attempting to body block the dog at the tunnel or pats/catches the dog as it comes in contact.
- i) Body blocking, pushing, or nudging the dog with hip, knee, leg, or foot, is considered deliberate touching
- j) Berate, bully, intimidate, or otherwise verbally abuse their dog, the Judge, or any person in or around the ring or on trial grounds.
- k) Curse in the ring.
- l) Tip, flip, or drop a tube when removing it from the straw. Any angle over 45 degrees will result in an NQ. Grab, scruff, shake, or pull/hold the dog by the ear(s) or tail or skin alone. Scruffing is defined as holding on to the dog, with or without pulling, with fingers closed and gripping around hair and/or skin and hair only. Fingers buried in a long coat is not scruffing.
- m) Deliberately get on hands and/or knees or lay on the ground in the ring.
- n) Peer directly into the tube to check for a rat before or after calling Rat. Handlers may ask the judge to check a tube.

www.barnhunt.com

www.4thedogstraining.com

Elizabeth Staley CPDT-KA
BHA Judge
BHA Trial Secretary