



RATS! CANADA AND SOULSTORM DOG SPORTS
ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO THE
2nd OFFICIAL RATS! CANADA
RATAPALOOZA COMPETITION!



RATAPALOOZA 2022

February 26, March 19, April 9, May 7, 2022

Indoors, Next Level Dog Training, 90 Decosta street, Arnprior ON

Trials are open to all dogs, purebred or mixed breeds, over the age of 3 months

7 TRIALS!! RIBBONS, TROPHIES!!

Registration opens January 27th (or one month before trial date) at 8:30 am
Closing date: February 16th (or 10 days before trial date) or when trials are full.

Registration is ONLINE ONLY at <https://form.jotform.com/213339015095250>

Payment due by e-transfer upon registration. Registration is not complete until payment is received.

DAILY SCHEDULE (2 trials per day*)

MORNING 8 a.m.: Novice 1 & 2 Barn rattling, Novice 1 & 2 Brush hunting,
Advanced 1 & 2 Barn rattling, Advanced 1 & 2 Brush hunting

MID DAY: Team Relay

AFTERNOON: Master 1 & 2 Barn rattling, Master 1 & 2 Brush hunting,
Champion 1 & 2 Barn rattling, Champion 1 & 2 Brush hunting

Up to 5 runs per dog each day! (*except May 7, 1 trial only)

Entry fees: \$25 per run, or \$115 for 5 runs (same dog only)

JUDGES

Lauren Taylor, MC Guindon

This trial is indoors and proof of double COVID vaccination is required in order to register.

The above are sanctioned events under RATS! Canada rules and regulations.

A [RATS! Canada Dog ID](#) is required to compete.

Contact Information for trial:

Secretary: Marie-Claire Guindon soulstormdogsports@gmail.com

WHAT ARE RAT SPORTS?

Rat sports are based on hunting and teamwork skills. Historically, rat catchers and their dogs offered their services to farmers to control vermin, helping to conserve and to preserve their grain and consequently protect the inhabitants from disease. The purpose of the RATS! Canada games is to demonstrate teamwork between the handler and dog team. The dog must display his vermin hunting ability by finding and signaling the presence of rats in a barn-like or field-like setting in which straw/hay bales are used. The handler must display his ability to read the dog's signal.

All information for RATS! Canada events can be found on our Web site. There is also a Facebook group called "RATS! Canada (canine ratting sports association)" which may list available classes or workshops.

Rules for all RATS! Canada games can be found on the Web site at:

<http://www.ratscanadadogsports.com>

BRUSH HUNTING

Brush Hunting relies completely on your dog's ability to locate a live quarry. Brush Hunts are usually held outside in a wooded or fallow fenced area. The size of the area is determined by the level of difficulty. The higher the level, the bigger the area the dog must search. One or two tubes containing a live rat are used for this event depending on the level of difficulty. The tube must remain in the same position for every team at the same level, and the handler is told where the quarry is before competing. The tube is completely out of sight, covered slightly in leaves, or branches, or straw. **The judge stops the timer when he considers that the dog indicates, in a satisfactory fashion, the presence of the rat.**

Two (2) minutes are allocated to find the rat. Depending on the level of difficulty, the time that the dog must work alone while the handler remains in the start box, and waits for permission to move around the ring varies. The time required to obtain a qualifying score (Q) varies from 80 to 60 seconds based on the level of difficulty. Under no circumstances may the handler touch the dog, the bales or the tube(s) while the dog is working, as this will result in automatic disqualification. Completing a run in less than 2 minutes is considered a "pass", and scores will be used for placement. Qualifying in the dog's first or second sanctioned novice brush hunt run leads to a Brush Hunt Instinct Title.

BARN RATting

Barn ratting requires good communication with your dog, as well as your dog's ability to discriminate odors and live animals. Depending on the level of difficulty, three to eight tubes may be used. These can be empty, or containing either rats and/or rat litter. The size of the area is determined by the level of difficulty. Tubes are hidden between bales of hay. The end of the tubes must be in plain view of the handler and the judge, being more or less visible depending on the competition level. The team is allocated 2 minutes to find the rat(s). The handler and the dog enter the ring at the same time. The handler can give one verbal command then must remain silent for the first 30 seconds or more while the dog hunts.

Afterwards, when the judge gives their permission, the handler may encourage and direct his dog verbally. **The handler is responsible to make the timer stop, calling 'Rat!' to the judge**, when he believes that his dog has found a rat. Should the team be in error and have identified a tube incorrectly, the timer will continue, and 5 seconds will be added to the final time of the test. Touching the dog before the judge confirms that the last rat tube is found or touching bales or a tube that has not yet been identified leads to an automatic disqualification. You may however pet your dog shortly after he has found a rat tube. The tube(s) where the rats are hidden are switched places for each blind of participants, to ensure participants are not aware of the tube location(s). Completing a run in less than 2 minutes is considered a "pass" and goes for placement, but the rat(s) must be found within 90 seconds to earn your qualification. Qualifying in a dog's first or second ever sanctioned novice barn hunt run leads to a Barn Ratting Instinct Title.

TEAM RELAY

The object of the game is for two teams of dog/handlers to each find a rat in a brush hunt setting in the same ring. There are two designated "start boxes", one dog and handler per box. Each dog must be on leash or well restrained by a collar or harness. This is very important: if a dog waiting in a start box escapes its handler, you will automatically be disqualified. The decision of which dog and handler team takes which start box is left to the teams.

The protocol is the same as in Brush Hunting. You may issue a single verbal command to your dog upon its release, after which you must be silent. As usual, **the judge will stop the timer when they deem that the dog has shown that they have found the rat** to their satisfaction. THE TIMER WILL BE STOPPED when the first rat is found. The handler must collect their dog quickly, and return to their start box area with their dog on leash or otherwise under control. The handler will then advise their team member that they are done, and check that the judge is ready to continue. On the judge's command, the second handler will release their dog, issuing a single verbal command. The timer re-starts when the second dog leaves the start box. Each dog must find a rat. The team must find both rats within 60 seconds in order to qualify.



RAT CARE AND SAFETY

RATS! Canada is committed to the humane treatment of rats used at all RATS! Canada events. Rats are rotated out as necessary based on weather conditions and other factors. Rats are chosen and trained specifically for the sport. Tubes used are built for dog AND rat safety according to specific rat care rules. Rats will not be harmed in any way during or at the end of the trial; they are returning home to be as cared for and loved as dogs can be. Please report to RATS! Canada any concerns or unacceptable treatment you witness in any rat sport event so we can investigate the incident.

<https://form.jotform.com/SoulstormDogSports/incidentreport>

Tentative Daily Event schedule

7:45 to 8:00a.m.	Check-in for all Novice classes
8:00 to 12:00p.m.	Judge's briefing. Barn and Brush and events begin, awards presentation will follow each class as soon as possible.
12:00 to 12:30p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Team Relay , Brush and Barn events
4:00pm	End of day (<i>volunteers for clean up appreciated</i>)

PLEASE NOTE:

- Running order will be made up in advance. You are expected to be present at ring-side, or nearby, during the time period when your class or event is being offered. If you are not present when your dog is called, you will be bumped to the end of the running order for your class, and may miss your turn if you are not available by the time volunteers are ready to build the ring for the next event. Ring will close and judge will leave at the announced time. It will not be possible to credit the missed run for another event or day.
- The Secretariat table will be manned during the day, and participants are expected to check in and attend the general briefing for their class(es).
- If you run more than one dog in the same class, the running order will allow for at least 3 other dogs between each dog, so that you have time to reward your dog and get the next dog ready.
- No choke, prong or electric collars (no corrective equipment) are permitted within proximity of the ring.
- A dog eliminating in the ring is not cause for disqualification, however it is possible that a \$5 fee will be charged to the handler for each soiled bale that must be removed from the ring.
- Dogs that are entered in a sanctioned event cannot run FEO before their sanctioned run, and can do one FEO run per event, after their sanctioned run only.

Trial Information

This sanctioned trial is held under RATS! Canada rules and regulations. All events are RATS! Canada recognized and approved. Rules and regulations are available on the RATS! Canada Web site. A hard copy of the rulebook will be available at the secretary's table for consultation during the event. All dogs must be kept SECURELY in an x-pen, crate or on leash when not in the ring. Any dog engaging in aggressive behavior at any time will be required to leave trial venue. In such cases, no refund of fees will be paid.

Entries and Closing Date

Entries must be received by closing date or will be subject to a late registration fee and space availability. Only electronic entries accompanied by e-transfer will be accepted. Entries can be taken day of trial only if the event is not full.

Any changes to entries, including cancellations*, will be accepted until closing date. Changes must be made to the Secretary [by e-mail](#). Cancellations received after closing date will not be eligible for a refund of fees unless accompanied by a veterinary certificate.

*** ALL CANCELLATION REFUNDS ARE SUBJECT TO A 10% ADMINISTRATIVE FEE.**



**YOU MUST BRING INDOOR SHOES.
NO BOOTS/OUTDOOR SHOES ARE
PERMITTED IN THE TRIALING AREA.**

Check-In

Check-in will be from 7:45 a.m. for the morning classes. First dog in the ring at 8:00 a.m.
New same-day registrations in Advanced, Masters and Champion levels will be allowed if space permits.

Awards

Dogs that qualify will receive a flat Q ribbon for each Qualifying run.

Dogs will be judged in their specific breed group as determined by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). For the mixed breeds, the owner chooses the most representative group depending on their dog's attributes. A judge may reassign your dog if the choice of breed is considered truly unfitting. A judge can also help you in choosing the best suited group for your mixed breed dog if you are unsure. Puppies will all be in the same group for placements. Top 3 group placements will be awarded a flat ribbon.

Top dogs in each of the categories below will be awarded a rosette (Best and Reserve) in each trial.

- Brush and Barn – Novice
- Brush and Barn – Advanced
- Brush and Barn – Master
- Brush and Barn – Champion
- Team Relay (top team only)

INSTINCT TITLE: The Barn Rattling or Brush Hunt Instinct Title will be granted to novice dogs who qualify in one of their first two runs ever in each discipline. Dogs earning the Instinct Title will receive a rosette.

TITLES: Dogs achieving a title will receive a rosette.

RATAPALOOZA PRIZES (overall): On May 7, 2022, trophies will be awarded to the top 3 dogs each in Barn Rattling and Brush Hunting as well as an Overall Top Dog award**. This will be based on their best 5 runs (out of a possible 7 runs) and the point accumulation for these runs over the course of the Ratapalooza series of trials.

***The overall top dog is not eligible to also win top Barn or Brush.*

Trial Space

Next Level Dog Training – 90 Decosta st., Arnprior ON

The trial location requires that you wear INDOOR SHOES inside most of the building. You MUST wear indoor shoes in the trialing area and ring. Crating space will be available indoors. Crating space near the ring will be reserved for volunteers.

The trailing location has washrooms, drinking water, and a fridge and microwave are available for your use.

MAP



**PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG(S) AND YOURSELF.
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**



Notice to Competitors

Competitors, through submission of entry, acknowledge that they are knowledgeable of RATS! Canada rules and regulations including but not limited to the following rules regarding entry:

- **All dogs must be registered with RATS! Canada to compete for qualifying legs and placements. It is your responsibility to obtain a [RATS! Canada Dog ID number](#), prior to the trial. If you do not have a RATS! Canada number you must obtain one from RATS! Canada by the trial date for your runs to be counted.**
- This trial is open to all dogs being at least 3 months of age, including purebred and non-purebred, except dogs with injuries or illnesses which may cause the dog pain or great discomfort, or dogs exhibiting signs of aggression that threaten the safety of other dogs or humans.
- Bitches in season (BIS) will be eligible to compete at this event; however they MUST wear pants, will be run last in their class, and must be crated at a distance from other dogs.
- Physically challenged dogs are allowed and encouraged to compete. The dogs must not show evidence of being in pain or discomfort. The judge shall excuse any dog that shows evidence of pain or discomfort.
- Nature calls (for the dog) in the ring are NOT disqualifying matter but the clock keeps running! A \$5 fee per bale may be charged to the handler in order to replace any bales soiled. Dogs are encouraged to wear pants or a belly band if they show a tendency to eliminate in the ring.
- Physically challenged handlers are allowed. Physically challenged owner/handlers shall provide the judge with a written description of how they intend to work with their dog. The modification must be approximate to the best of the handler's ability. The judge must approve and initial the modifications and attach the written description to the score sheet.
- Safety shall always be of foremost consideration at all times. Handlers, through entry at this event, accept full responsibility for themselves and the actions of their dog(s).
- The organizing committee may refuse any entry or access for any reason.

In addition,

- THERE SHALL BE NO REFUND without veterinary certificate for entries withdrawn after the closing date or in the event a dog and/or handler are dismissed from competition, regardless of reason for such dismissal.
- The trial will take place indoors, crating will be indoors, and there will be no refunds for weather related cancellations. Please allow yourself adequate time to get to the trial location, and bring clothes for expected weather.
- All dogs shall be presented at ringside in a flat buckle or snap collar, plain harness, or properly fitted martingale (limited slip) collar. NO choke collars, prong collars, or shock collars are allowed at ringside. A properly fitted martingale collar should be barely larger than the circumference of the dog's neck when fully tightened.
- Upon successful completion of an exercise, the owner may choose to briefly pet or touch the dog as a reward but no treats, toys or accessories can be used in the ring.
- Dogs must remain under control at all times whether on or off leash while on trial grounds, including when a rat tube is found. Careless, excessive biting, pawing or shaking will lead to disqualification. Dogs must be supervised or securely crated if not supervised.
- You must pick up after your dog and yourself.
- ***Have fun!***

GENERAL AGREEMENT / WAIVER

I (we) agree that Soulstorm Dog Sports (the hosting club), and/or RATS! Canada has the right to refuse this entry for any cause, which the organizing committee alone shall deem to be sufficient. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, of the holding of the event, and of the opportunity to have the dog participate and/or to be judged, I (we) agree to hold the organizing committee, the hosting club, RATS! Canada, including their members, officers, directors, agents and employees, sponsors of the event, and owners of the premises upon which the event is held and their employees, harmless from any claim for loss or injury that may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of this dog while in or upon the event premises or grounds or near any entrance thereto, and I (we) personally assume all responsibility and liability for any such claim. I (we) further agree to hold the aforementioned parties harmless from any claim for loss of this dog by disappearance, theft, death or otherwise, and from any claim for damage or injury to the dog, whether such loss, disappearance, appearance, theft, damage, or injury be caused or alleged to be caused by the negligence of the parties aforementioned, or by the negligence of any other person, or any other cause or causes. I (we) hereby assume the sole responsibility for and agree to indemnify and save the aforementioned parties harmless from any and all loss and expense (including legal fees) by reason of the liability imposed by law upon any of the aforementioned parties for damage because of bodily injuries, including death resulting at any time therefore, sustained by any person or persons, including myself (ourselves), or on account of damage to property arising out of or in consequence of my (our) participation in this event, howsoever such injuries, death, or damage to property may be caused, and whether or not the same may have been caused or may have been alleged to have been caused by negligence of the aforementioned parties or any of their employees or agents or any other persons.

I (we) further acknowledge that I (we) have read, understand, and will abide by the Official RATS! Canada Rules and Regulations, and the provisions for entry as set forth in the Schedule of which this entry form is a part. I (we) acknowledge and represent that the information supplied by me (us) herein is correct to the best of my (our) knowledge; if any portion of this information is found to be invalid or insufficient to establish the validity of my (our) entry, such finding shall render my (our) entry invalid in its entirety, for which there shall be no refund of fees paid. Further, I (we) represent that I am (we are) the owner(s) of the dog listed hereon, or that I (we) am (are) a family member of the dog's owner as stated and allowed in the RATS! Canada rules, and that I (we) shall hold the hosting club and RATS! Canada, including their officers, directors, employees and agents and their sponsors, harmless from any liability or claim made by dog's owner.

Further, I (we) hereby grant to RATS! Canada, their representatives, agents, and assigns, all rights and permissions to broadcast, telecast, cablecast, transmission, or distribution in any format or media now known or hereafter to become known. I (we) hereby release RATS! Canada, the hosting club, their representatives, agents, and volunteers from any claim or cause of action for invasion of the rights of privacy, right of personality, or any similar right. All video, broadcast, and telecast rights for this event are the exclusive property of the trial host(s).

When you fill out the online registration form at <https://form.jotform.com/213339015095250>, you will be asked to acknowledge consent to this waiver. You cannot register without accepting the conditions under which this trial will run.

