



SOULSTORM DOG SPORTS AND THE
OTTAWA KENNEL CLUB ARE
PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO TWO
DAYS OF RATS! CANADA TRIALS!



May 25-26, 2024

Richmond Fairgrounds, 6107 Perth St, Richmond, ON K0A 2Z0

2 days, 4 Trials!! Registration opens April 25 / Closing date: May 13 or when trials are full.

Registration is ONLINE ONLY at <https://form.jotform.com/221564527433253>

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

DAILY SCHEDULE

MORNING 8 a.m.: BARN & BRUSH Novice 1 & 2, Advanced 1 & 2,

MID DAY: Team Relay

AFTERNOON: BARN & BRUSH Master 1 & 2, Champion 1 & 2

Up to 5 runs per dog per day.

Entry fees: \$30 per run, and \$15 for Team Relay

Judges: Lauren Taylor & MC Guindon

*The above are sanctioned events under RATS! Canada rules and regulations. Event# 23-003-RC
A [RATS! Canada Dog ID](#) is required to compete.*



Contact Information for trial:

Chairperson/Secretary: Marie-Claire Guindon

<mailto:soulstormdogsports@gmail.com>

RATS! Canada Dog ID Request:

<https://www.ratscanadadogsports.com/register.html>

RATS! Canada general inquiries: ratscanadadogsports@gmail.com

*Many RATS! Canada titles are now recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club!
Visit www.ratscanadadogsports.com for more information*



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that ANY classes from which there are no volunteers will be cancelled, refunded, and the runs offered to other levels on the waitlist. If we cannot man the ring, we will not run the level. This will be based on entry forms, and will not be changed after the fact.

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.

TRAINING/PRACTICE/WORKSHOPS/FUN MATCHES

All information for RATS! Canada events can be found on a Facebook group called “**RATS! Canada (canine rapping sports association)**”, so be sure to join the Facebook page to be informed of all events, in order to learn and practice the sport.

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. Qualifying in the dog's first or second sanctioned novice brush hunt run leads to a Brush Hunt Instinct Title.



Please pick up after your dog(s) and yourself.
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

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 can give one verbal command then must remain silent for the first 30 seconds or more while the dog hunts. When the judge gives their permission, the handler may encourage and direct his dog verbally. **The handler is responsible for calling 'Rat!' to the judge**, when he believes that his dog has found a rat, which stops the timer. 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. You may only touch/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). 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.

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. When the judge gives permission, the second handler will then release their dog, issuing a single verbal command. The timer re-starts when the second dog leaves the start box.



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 follow up.

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 will be available at the secretary's table for consultation during the event. All dogs must be kept 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.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The running order will be made up in advance. You are expected to be present at the secretary table, or nearby, at the time you are scheduled to run. If you are not present for your scheduled runs, you will be bumped to the end of the running order for that class, and you will 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. A "judge's briefing" will be given before the class, as usual.
- The Secretariat/Registration table will be manned throughout the day.
- If you run more than one dog in the same class, the running order will allow for at least 1 other dog between each dog, so that you have time to reward your dog and get the next dog ready.
- No choke, prong or electric collars are permitted within proximity of the ring.
- **Eliminating in the ring is cause for disqualification and a \$10 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 or a fun run before their sanctioned run, and can do one FEO run per event AFTER their sanctioned run only. Failing to respect this rule leads to disqualification for all events offered for the day, with no refunds given.
- **Please note that our judge is immunocompromised and though wearing a mask in the ring is not mandated, it is greatly appreciated.**

Entries and Closing Date

Entries must be received by May 13; no late registrations will be accepted. Only electronic entries accompanied by e-transfer will be accepted. Entries may be taken day of trial if the event is not full. Move ups will be allowed.

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 cancellations are subject to a 10% administration fee.

Check-In

Check-in will be from 8:00 a.m. for the morning classes. First dog in the ring at 8:15 a.m.

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. Top 3 group placements will be awarded a flat ribbon. Additional discretionary ribbons may be available.

INSTINCT TITLE: The Barn Rattling, Brush Hunt or Trailing and Locating 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.

Trial Grounds

- The trials will be held under cover of a barn, rain or shine.
- Please pick up after your dog as well as after yourself.
- Porta-potties are available on site.

Parking

There is parking available on site.

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 but notice must be given to event Secretary at least 2 days prior to the trial so that designated crating space can be prepared.
- 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 a disqualifying matter** but the clock keeps running! If the dog is wearing a belly band or pants from which nothing escapes, the dog will not be disqualified. **A \$10 fee per bale will be charged to the handler in order to replace any bales soiled or rendered in any way unusable.**
- 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.
- Please note that the trial **IS NOT FULLY ACCESSIBLE** as the potties may not be suitable for wheelchair use.

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 in a barn, under cover. There will be no refunds for weather related cancellations. Please allow yourself adequate time to get to the trial.
- 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 or in the ring. 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, or toys can be used in the ring. **DO NOT TOUCH hay or tubes.**
- Dogs must remain under control at all times whether on or off leash while on show grounds, including when a rat tube is found. Careless, excessive biting, pawing or shaking will lead to disqualification.
- 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 herein, 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 assign 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 assigns 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/221564527433253>, you will be asked to acknowledge consent to this waiver. You cannot register without accepting the conditions under which this trial will run.



DRAWS FOR FREE RUNS WILL BE HELD FOR VOLUNTEERS AS WELL AS RIBBON RETURNS!