



Policy and Procedures
2014

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Preface

The barn hunt is a centuries old practice. It still continues as an exercise for farmers and their dogs, in a daily bid, to rid their farm of invasive vermin. Vermin spread disease and illness. They contaminate precious stock piles and infest livestock quarters. 'Rat-catching' was first documented in European history; the most famous (yet fictional) 'Rat-catcher' being The Pied Piper of Hamelin (16th century). Throughout the 1800's, the role of professional rat-catching with K-9 assistants (mainly terriers) reached its peak. During the 1900's, technology and science began to deliver alternative ways to eradicate vermin from farmyards; and as a result, as the vermin began disappearing in this manner, so too did the rat-catcher.

Canada Barn Hunts is an all-inclusive competition which measures the hunting instinct of the dog and the handling abilities of the handler in simulated farm yard / hay loft scenarios.

Originally, farmers relied on terrier and hound breeds to take on the task to eradicate these pests, however, with the introduction of the recreational purposed Canada Barn Hunts, every breed of dog is welcome to come and attempt a stake to claim for fame.

The objective of Canada Barn Hunts is to provide a fun and competitive atmosphere for dog and handler which will test instinctive prey drive, physical ability, handler supervision and direction against other entrants.

The Canada Barn Hunts sporting event is a multi-tiered competition with varying degrees of difficulty and reward. Any breed of dog, (including mixed breeds), which is older than 6 months and measures within the games height restrictions is welcome to participate. (See Dog Eligibility Section and Dog Measurements & Height Divisions Section)

Canada Barn Hunts can take place indoors and outdoors and need not be limited to an authentic agricultural environment.

The Canada Barn Hunts sporting event is infused with excitement, trepidation, and great sportsmanship. There are difficulty levels to progress through, titles and championships to be won (and lost). There are new friends to make and healthy competitive attitudes to exude.

Dogs do not need to have any previous training history of hunting vermin. Handler - dog cooperation and command ability are crucial for success of the course(s) in that the handler needs to be aware when and where the dog reaches its target.

Good Sportsmanship

It is the duty of all Canada Barn Hunts competitors, judges, ring stewards, volunteers and spectators to behave in a courteous and respectful manner to all attendees before, during and after the competition.

Any competitor who displays unrighteous sportsmanship toward others may face immediate disciplinary action.

There is no harsh or corrective training allowed on the event grounds. Handlers who are caught verbally



or physically abusing any dog, inside or outside of the event grounds will face immediate disciplinary action.

Dogs that are loud or disruptive to fellow competitors will be appropriately managed and calmed by their handler(s).

The Event Host, Event Attendants and judge(s) have full authorization on behalf of Canada Barn Hunts to enforce all decisions at event locations, to which will be performed in competent and un-bias rulings. (See Disqualifications Section)

Barn Hunt Canada is a family-friendly event, thus the behaviour of all those involved is to be kept in accordance to that as such.

A Club

A “Club” is any entity; organization or group of individuals, who wish to hold games using Canada Barn Hunts rules. A “club” can be a commercial entity, a group or association that is licensed by another organization, or a group of individuals.

Canada Barn Hunts does not officially license Canada Barn Hunts “Clubs.”

Dog Eligibility

Any dog of any breed (including mixed breeds), six months of age or older, may participate in Canada Barn Hunts.

The courses are designed as to simulate a barn / hay loft, therefore handlers that intend to enter a dog into the games must make sure that it can safely navigate through an 18” (48 cm) wide by approximately 22” (56 cm) high “tunnel” constructed of straw/hay bales.

Bitches in season MAY participate. They will be adjudicated to enter the specific event at the end of each class and must compete in pants/diapers. (See Bitches in Season Section)

Deaf dogs may compete.

Dogs missing a limb may compete as long as they can navigate the course safely and that the site of the missing limb does not give cause for potential injury or duress.

Blind dogs may not compete. Blind; in this context, means not having useful vision. A dog that is missing an eye or that is blind in only one eye may compete.

Dogs may not compete with visible bandages, stitches or neck cones.

Dogs in wheeled carts may not compete.

The judge may dismiss from the ring a lame dog, or any dog that they consider to be unable to safely complete the course due to a physical issue.



Barn Hunt Canada Logo

The Canada Barn Hunts logo, as pictured below, will only be used with prior written permission from Canada Barn Hunts. This includes, but is not limited to, the approval for use for sanctioned events, and approved merchandise, marketing and promotional memorabilia.



The use of the Canada Barn Hunts logo without permission is not allowed and may result in prosecution under copyright and/or trademark infringement laws.

Hosting a Canada Barn Hunts Event

Each and every club that wishes to officially hold a Canada Barn Hunts event, (using official policy and procedures,) and fund it via entry fees, must apply to Canada Barn Hunts before holding any games; whether for score or otherwise exhibition. Informal training clinics are exempt from Canada Barn Hunts review and approval processes.

Applications for official Canada Barn Hunts must be formally submitted to Canada Barn Hunts. The appropriate application form and fee must be included as part of the submission pack in order to avoid unnecessary delay. (www.canadabarnhunts.ca)

The club must have an area of at least 20' x 20' (6.1 m x 6.1m,) or an equivalent space of approximately 400ft² (37.21m²) in which to build the course. A larger space is preferred as to adequately accommodate for movement of contestants, spectators, other equipment and facility circulation in general.

The club needs to have a sufficient amount of staff, (see Event Officials Section).

The club must have liability insurance for their Canada Barn Hunts event.

The club agrees to abide to and uphold all the policies and procedures, ethics and sportsmanship standards that is represented in Canada Barn Hunts.



Difficulty Levels

Canada Barn Hunts has sanctioned the following games for use at its events. As competitors progress through the ranks, the difficulty levels increase.

Older dogs 10 years and over compete in a specialty division appropriately titled, “Veterans”. All policy is the exact same for veterans.

There are currently five difficulty levels to compete in; they are,

- Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher - BRC
- Level 2: Junior Rat-Catcher - JRC
- Level 3: Senior Rat-Catcher - SRC
- Level 4: Master Rat-Catcher - MRC
- Level 5: Champion Rat- Catcher - CRC

Mandatory versus Discretionary Classes

Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher – BRC and Level 2: Junior Rat-Catcher - JRC courses must be offered at every Canada Barn Hunts games.

In the event that the host is holding two trials in one day, then they need only host one set of Level 1 and 2 courses. These courses must be held prior to any other course level of greater difficulty.

Level 3: Senior Rat-Catcher – SRC, Level 4: Master Rat-Catcher – MRC, and Level 5: Champion Rat-Catcher – CRC are to be offered by the host of the games at their discretion.

A maximum of 2 trials may take place at one event per day.

Exhibition Games

Exhibitions may be hosted prior to, or after judged trial events only. Exhibitions may not take place during the same time as a judged trial.

Course layouts used during any Exhibition will not be used during judged trials.

Exhibitions may incorporate characteristics of the varying difficulty levels within the course for training purposes.

The host of the Exhibition may allow for participants to openly recite and enforce the policy of Canada Barn Hunts while keeping the flavour of good sportsmanship.

All Exhibitions must follow Canada Barn Hunts policy and procedures.

Any awards or prizes won during an exhibition must clearly state that they were attained through an Exhibition event.



Exhibition events do not count in any way toward official games scores and the status of recognition that goes with it.

Event Officials

Event Officials, as outlined below, are the support structure for the successful execution of a Canada Barn Hunts games. The duties and responsibilities as listed below are intended for the Canada Barn Hunts event area only. In the likelihood that Canada Barn Hunts will take place within a larger venue; it is the responsibility of the coordinator(s) of said venue to appropriately adjudicate resources and attendees where required for their own needs.

Event Host

This is the person in charge for the overall event. They are responsible for coordinating and overseeing the smooth running regarding all facets of the event. The host is responsible for arranging the judges, necessary equipment and materials, and any and all other event infrastructure required to host a safe, fun and organised games.

Event Secretary

Responsible for event administration. They create the Premium List, accept/decline entries, and give out numbers and set run orders. The Event Secretary is responsible for accurately completing and submitting all paperwork and fulfilling all administrative criteria for and on behalf of Canada Barn Hunts.

Course Builder(s)

Responsible for building and maintaining the course during the games. The design of the course remains the responsibility of the judge and as adhered to the quality of Canada Barn Hunts standards.

Gate/Line Steward

Responsible for organizing competitors at the start gate as determined by the Event Secretary in an organized and efficient manner. Responsible to keep competitors organised in groups of five as per running orders within the Staging and Queuing Area.

Event Attendants

A minimum of four people are required to serve this role for general event facilitation. Duties include (but are not necessarily limited to) professionally and calmly defusing and/or rectifying aggressive behaviour amongst both humans and dogs, poor sportsmanship and audience encroachment/interference. It is recommended that there be at least three Event Attendants present within the immediate area of the event grounds at any one time during live trials.

Rat Handler

The sole responsibility of the Rat Handler is to ensure safe and humane handling of the vermin and the rat tubes (targets) in which they are placed. This includes placement and removal of rat tubes and vermin during the event.

Two Rat Handlers must be present during each trial. One handler should be located inside the course area, and one working outside of it. The Rat Handler located inside the course perimeter works in tandem with the handler on the outside of the course by quickening the pace and



overall games efficiency for rat and rat tube placement and collection, while minimizing scent dispersal and unnecessary stress to the animals.

It is the duty of the Rat Handlers to work synchronously with the judge as to avoid miscommunication or incorrect placement of the targets. At no time will the Rat Handlers and/or Judge openly communicate the location(s) of targets whilst in the presence of others. The Rat Handler working within the course perimeter will maintain a static position during the trials. Rat Handlers are forbidden to follow competitors on the course, give hints about target locations or aid competitors.

Leash Runner

Assists the competitor by accepting the dog's leash and collar and places it near the exit. May also assist as a sheet/paperwork runner

Staging Steward (optional)

Supports the gate/line steward by ushering competitors to the waiting area, and from the waiting area to the start gate.

Timer (optional)

The judge may act as timer or bestow this responsibility to someone else; the Timer. The timing device can either emit an audible call at the end of the allotted time, or it may be silent, in which case the judge (or Timer) will alert the participants and spectators in an appropriate call-out.

Judge(s)

One judge is required for scoring Difficulty Levels 1 through 4. Two judges are required for Difficulty Level 5. One judge is permitted to score a total of 120 individual runs per day only. Please refer to the Canada Barn Hunts Judging Criteria handbook for more information.

Other

In the event of a lesser sized venue; certain roles may be combined. The Event Host and Event Secretary can be combined. Course builder(s) and Rat Handlers can be combined. Gate/Line Steward and Leash Runner can be combined. Other combinations may be made at the discretion of the club as long as the overall games are able to run smoothly.

Premium List

A Premium List must be created for all Canada Barn Hunts games and exhibitions. The premium list will be made available in print or electronic form, or both.

The following particulars must be included within the premium list:

- Name of the club hosting the event
- Full address of the event location
- Full address of the club (if different for the event location)
- Date of the event
- Start time(s)
- Name, address and contact information of the Event Host, Event Secretary, and Judge(s)
- Names of the Event Officials



- Entry fees
- Entry Fee Refund Policy
- Awards available to be won
- Competition/Difficulty Levels offered

- Opening Date and Closing Date for competitor entries
- Competitor Entry Limit (maximum of 120 runs per day per judge allowed)
- Whether Day of Show entries are allowed or not. Barn Hunt Canada authorizes Day of Show entries to be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Day of Show entries and pre-booked entries, together, may only tally up to, and not beyond the maximum competitor entry limit of 120.

- [Sample Entry Form](#)
- [Bitch In Season Rules](#)
- [Sample Liability Waiver - Appendix A](#)

Assumption of Risk

Owners and/or handlers entering dogs in a trial do so at their own risk.

Owners and/or handlers agree to assume responsibility for any damage caused by them, or by their dog(s).

Owners and Handlers will not hold the Event Host, club or Canada Barn Hunts responsible for any injury sustained by any dog or any person during the games.

Owners and/or handlers understand that the act of entering the competition endorses their competence and commitment to all policies and procedures of Canada Barn Hunts and local laws.

Cancellation Policy

Every attempt should be made to hold scheduled Barn Hunt Canada Event with the exception to an “Act of God” situation.

The Event Host will make every effort to contact entrants and to inform them of cancellations.

It is the discretion of the club’s refund policy that will determine if entry fees are refundable.

All application fees paid to Canada Barn Hunts are non-refundable, nor are they exchangeable.

Competitor Entry Form

The following shall be included:



- Name of the Games or Club Name
- Secretary name/address
- Date of the Games
- Competition Levels offered
- Cost to Enter

- Full name of dog
- Call name of dog
- Canada Barn Hunts Registration Number of the dog
- Dog Breed and if applicable; the variety
- Date of Birth of the Dog
- Sex (If intact bitch, refer to Bitch in Season Section)
-
- Difficulty Level(s) entered
- Height Division / Measurement at withers

- Name of owner(s)/co-owner(s)
- Name of Handler (if different)

All entries submitted must,

- have the correct entry fee
- be signed by the owner or authorized handler (electronic signatures are accepted)
- be completed fully and accurately
- be reflective of the dog entered

It is recommended that proof of confirmation regarding liability/waiver be attained. **(See Appendix A).**

A Canada Barn Hunts Registration Number is required to enter a Canada Barn Hunts Game. Any entries that do not have an accompanying registration number are not valid. A Canada Barn Hunts Registration Number is not required to enter Exhibition Games. www.canadabarnhunts.ca

Random Draws

In the instance that an Event Host receives more competitor entries than there are spaces available prior to the date of the scheduled games, or prior to the closing date for entries; then, it is recommended that a random draw be held to determine the participants in a fair unbiased manner.

Random Draw should be executed by the Event Secretary in the presence of at least one other Event Official or club member.

Entries for event officials may be withheld from the draw and automatically entered to compete in the games. Other entrants will be drawn at random and entered into the games as they are drawn.

Judge Qualifications



Any AKC, UKC, CKC, JRTCA, AWTA Earthdog or Noseworks judge may be sanctioned in as a Canada Barn Hunts judge upon successful completion the Canada Barn Hunts written exam.

Qualified judges in any event (agility, obedience, rally, etc.) can be considered as potential judges for Canada Barn Hunts. These applicants will be considered on an individual case by case basis.

Experienced competitors, will be considered on an individual case by case basis.

There is no fee to become a Canada Barn Hunts judge.

Judging Capacity

One judge is required to accurately moderate following difficulty levels:

Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher - BRC

Level 2: Junior Rat-Catcher - JRC

Level 3: Senior Rat-Catcher - SRC

Level 4: Master Rat-Catcher - MRC

At least two judges are required to accurately moderate the following courses and deliver titles:

Level 5: Champion Rat- Catcher - CRC

Judges are always capped to facilitate a total of 120 runs only, irrespective of the amount of judges there may be on each course.

Event Hosts must comply with a ‘two trial per event’ policy. They may choose to run both trials simultaneously. To properly facilitate this; all infrastructure, and event staff must be duplicated, including competitor waiting areas. The role of Event Secretary does not need to be duplicated in this circumstance

If the Event Host is inclined to run more than two trials per event; subsequent trials, and the approval process will be reviewed by Canada Barn Hunts on a case by case (trial by trial) basis.

Level Promotion

At the discretion of the club, Level Promotions for a competitors achievements may be allowed on a day to day and/or trial to trial basis.

Level Promotions must be strictly adhered to. They are as follows;

Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher – BRC can be promoted to Level 2: Junior Rat-Catcher – JRC

Level 2: Junior Rat-Catcher – JRC can be promoted to Level 3: Senior Rat-Catcher – SRC

Level 3: Senior Rat-Catcher – SRC can be promoted to Level 4: Master Rat-Catcher – MRC

Level 4: Master Rat-Catcher – MRC can be promoted to Level 5: Champion Rat- Catcher – CRC



A new competitor must successfully complete Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher – BRC criteria in order to warrant a level promotion status of Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher – BRC

Dogs may enter both Beginner Rat-Catcher and Junior Rat-Catcher at the same trial.
Dogs may not enter the Senior level until the Junior level is successfully completed.
Dogs may not enter the Master level until the Senior level is successfully completed.
Dogs may not enter the Champion level until the Master level is successfully completed.

Competitors who earn the right to promotion during the games can choose to be promoted to the next difficulty level, or remain at the current one. Competitors may not compete in a lower difficulty level once they have chosen to be promoted, and vice versa, they may not compete in a higher difficulty level until they have chosen to be promoted.

Course Prerequisites Enclosure Specifications

Canada Barn Hunts can be held in a modestly sized area with considerations being taken into account for the amount of spectators, third party vendor/venues, and other Canada Barn Hunts non essentials.

Waiting areas for participants should be no less than 20' (6 m) from the ring.

Spectators *with* dogs should not be closer than 20' (6 m) from the ring.

Spectators without dogs can be closer to the ring.

Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher - BRC Course Area and Enclosure Specification

Beginner Rat-Catcher is a set course. **See Appendix B for Beginner Rat-Catcher course build specifications.**

The actual Beginner Rat-Catcher course must be securely enclosed.

The Beginner Rat-Catcher must be run before any other classes.

It is recommended that adequate time has been allocated for course construction.

Level 2: Junior Rat-Catcher - JRC through to Level 5: Champion Rat- Catcher – CRC

Course Area and Enclosure Specifications

The recommended course area for Level 2: Junior Rat-Catcher - JRC through to Level 5: Champion Rat- Catcher – CRC is as close as possible to 20' x 20' (6 x 6 m) or the equivalent of 400ft² (37.2 m²) or larger.

The course area itself must be securely enclosed.



It is recommended that outdoor courses have a perimeter fencing in place; such as orange snow fencing.

Hay/Straw bales used as part of the navigable course may be placed against such fencing, as so long as it does not offer a means of escape for the dog.

Hay/Straw bales stacked 3 high (or higher) may be used as a fencing alternative, but it should not be built in a way that a dog can gain access to, or climb on top of. The perimeter barricade should not block the view for spectators.

Dog Aggression & Disruptions

For this section, an aggressive dog is one that shows a continued genuine threat after appropriate steps have been taken to minimise or neutralise said threat. Competitors who are handling dogs that pose a potential threat to others must treat their dog and handling practices to accommodate for a safe and fun environment.

All competitors, event officials and spectators must understand that canines are animals that sometimes act on natural instinct that we humans perceive as inappropriate behaviour. In the event that a dog (or dogs) gets into a questionable predicament; the use of common sense and sportsmanship will be required to solve this issue.

Any dog behaving in a threatening or aggressive manner toward another dog or a person may be dismissed from the trial if justification is found to do so by the judge and/or Event Officials. If minor instances cannot be resolved between parties, then a judge an Event Official will settle it.

Terrier sparring is not allowed on trial grounds.

The judge has ultimate authority to decide if and when a dog is too aggressive to compete.

Any dog that approaches a judge, in a threatening manner inside the ring may be dismissed on the judge's discretion.

All dogs are expected to be able to work within the closed area of the course with a judge and a rat handler within close proximity.

A dog that receives a non-qualifying score and course dismissal due to nipping at the Rat Tubes is not to be automatically considered aggressive or overtly threatening. Further information can be found in Scoring Guidelines

A written report must be sent to Barn Hunt Canada in the event of competitor dismissals.

A dog is not allowed to compete in any further events until the owner/handler is notified by Canada Barn Hunts regarding their decision. Whether a dog is allowed to be shown in future events will be determined after an official investigation is carried out.

Canada Barn Hunts holds the ultimate authority to deny any dog its participation within future events. In almost all cases Canada Barn Hunts supports the decision, interpretation and reasoning of the judge and Event Officials.



The decisions of Canada Barn Hunts are final.

Loud/Disruptive dogs

Dogs that are loud and disruptive may be asked to move away from the course area, crating area and/or the waiting areas until it is time for to compete.

Corrective devices, such as electronic shock collars, are not permitted to control a loud /disruptive dog.

Bitches in season

Bitches in season are allowed to compete at Canada Barn Hunts games.

Bitches in season must run at the end of each class within the appropriate difficulty level, regardless of height division.

They are to be confined to a separate waiting area while the course targets are reset.

They must wear pants/diapers at all times, including on the course.

Handlers of bitches in season are to crate/confine their dogs away from traffic and other dogs. Signs are recommended to be posted stating, “dog in season” on their crate/in their holding area.

It is recommended that bitches in season be pottied away from other dogs.

At the discretion of the Event Host, separate areas may be designated for bitches in season regarding confinement and pottying purposes.

Owners of bitches in season should make their situation known to the Event Secretary prior to arrival to the games if at all possible. They should also make that condition known at the trial briefing(s) and the competitor sign-in stage.

Failure to notify the club and competitors of a bitch in season will result in a disqualification and dismissal from the grounds.

In the case where a Canada Barn Hunts game is to be held in conjunction with another organization’s/venue’s event, if the other venue dictates that there are no bitches in season allowed, an exemption may be written for said event. These special circumstances will be decided on an individual basis.

Collars and Leashes and other gear on the Course



Electronic collars and similar devices are not allowed on trial grounds.

Head halters are not allowed on trial grounds.

At no time should dogs be tied out or otherwise left attached to stationary objects.

Dogs may not be brought to the start gate in any forbidden collar.

Dogs may not be brought to the line on flexi-leads / extendo-leashes.

Approved collars include; flat snap or buckle collars of solid construction and leather or nylon leads.

Limited slip martingale collars are allowed. Single piece slip collars/leads are allowed.

Harnesses, with the exception of head-halter types, are allowed.

Belly bands are not allowed.

Dogs MUST be completely naked during their run with the exception to bitches in season.

It is recommended that dogs be brought to the waiting area/start gate with collars/harnesses which can be easily and quickly removed and replaced.

Dog Measurements & Height Divisions

All dogs to be entered into the games must be measured as to correctly segregate them for height division purposes and fair competition.

With reference to Dog Measurements and while still respecting and maintaining other eligibility criteria; any dog that can fit into a simulated 'tight-spot' of 18 inches wide (48 cm) x 22 inches high (56 cm) is allowed to compete in Canada Barn Hunts.

The club shall provide a measuring wicket for use by the judge.

The wicket may be an agility wicket or a conformation-ring wicket. Homemade wickets are not recommended.

A hard, level surface is to be used to accurately measure the dogs

The measurement is to be taken from the top of the withers to the ground, parallel to the shoulder. The wicket should NOT rest on the back of the neck, nor should it rest on the back behind the shoulder.

Dogs are measured at the discretion of the judge.

In the event that a dog measures out of its Height Division, it will be moved accordingly into the appropriate category by the Event Secretary at the discretion of the judge.

The Height Divisions are:



Small: Dogs 13” (33 cm) and under
Medium: Dogs 13.1 to 18” (33.01 cm – 46 cm)
Large: Dogs over 18” (46 cm)

Qualifying and Placement Ribbons

Ribbons are awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places in each of the three height divisions, from Junior Rat-Catcher up to Champion Rat-Catcher.

It is recommended that clubs use a rosette style of ribbon for all placement ribbons.

Qualifying ribbons are awarded to each person who qualifies.
It is recommended that qualifying ribbons should flat ribbons.

Canada Barn Hunts – Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher - BRC does not have placement status, therefore no placement ribbons are awarded. Competitors who complete the Beginner Rat-Catcher -BRC obtain a qualifiers status and therefore receive qualifying ribbons only.

All ribbons must have the Canada Barn Hunts logo printed on the front side along with the hosting club name. Metallic silver ink is preferred. Event Particulars and winner information may be attached to the reverse side of the ribbon.

First Place Ribbon: Red
Second Place Ribbon: Blue
Third Place Ribbon: White
Fourth Place Ribbon: Yellow
Qualifying Ribbon: Green

Exhibition Ribbons

Clubs are authorised to offer place ribbons at exhibition matches.

Qualifying ribbons are not allowed to be offered at any exhibition match.

If place ribbons are offered at exhibition matches, the word “EXHIBITION” must be printed in capital letters on the front face of the ribbon.

Standard place ribbons are not allowed to be awarded at exhibition matches.

Optional Ribbons

Clubs may offer the following awards/ribbons at their own discretion:

Each ribbon must be imprinted with the specific award with the appropriate title designation:



Junior Exterminator – Fastest dog out of all the height divisions in the JRC Class
Senior Exterminator – Fastest dog out of all the height divisions in the SRC Class
Master Exterminator – Fastest dog out of all the height divisions in the MRC Class
Champion Exterminator – Fastest dog out of all the height divisions in the CRC Class

New Difficulty Level Achieved – awarded to anyone who achieves a new difficulty level

Optional award ribbons should be listed in the premium.

Rat Care and Rat Tubes

All attempts must be made to ensure rat safety at Canada Barn Hunts events.

Rat Tubes need to be built to withstand the crushing force of canine jaws.

Rat Tube specifications are not moderated by Canada Barn Hunts; however, any rat tube constructed must allow for good ventilation, safety and room for movement for the rats.

Canada Barn Hunts recommends that all rat tubes constructed are of correct proportion to accommodate the quick shifting and handling of tubes throughout the course and runs.

Black (ABS) piping is strongly discouraged as it attracts heat/sunlight.

Rats must always have bedding in their tube to help with sanitation and to act as a cushion from possible impact.

Rats must not be worked continuously through an entire day. They are to be traded out as necessary for breaks and water. Rats should be stored in a safe and accustomed environment when resting/not in use.

Clubs may require up to ten rats per day to accommodate for the games needs and consideration of rat care.

Rats are not be killed at the end of the games.

Suggested rat tube construction can be found in Appendix C.

General Course Specifications

The course configurations are built from straw bales.

Concrete blocks may be used on the course to aid short-legged dogs.

A board or boards of at least 3/4" thickness, of a minimum size of 24" x 36" and a maximum size of 48" x 48", with a non-slip surface and may be used as a step aid or as a bridge from one section of the course to another. The board must be stable for the heaviest competing dogs.



It is recommended that two 4" to 6" blunt-ended bolts be drilled through the board(s) to help anchor the wood securely into the bales.

The course for Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher – BRC is a standardized setup (**See Appendix B.**) The judge is responsible to design each JRC, SRC, MRC and CRC course.

Every course must be designed to include a tunneling effort and a climbing effort.

Creative course design and ingenuity are encouraged whilst still maintaining the needs for handler movement within the course, and accommodating all the dog sizes represented in the various height divisions.

Each course must have a designated dog release area; a Starting Gate large enough to accommodate the disabled.

The course layout will remain the same for all height divisions within each difficulty level.

Courses vary from difficulty level to difficulty level, and will become more complex as the competition progresses.

It is recommended that larger course sizes are constructed for the MRC and CRC levels. Each course must have at least one officially built tunnel in which the competitor will be judged regarding their tunneling effort. Incidental tunnels constructed and traversed do not constitute replacement equivalents for official tunneling efforts.

One official tunnel must be no less than 3' (0.9 m) and not more than 4' (1.2m) from the enclosed area of the Start Gate.

The entire course should be considered a searchable area.

The Start Gate

The start gate is where the handlers will release their dog. It is a 4' x 4' (1.2 x 1.2m) area inside the enclosed course.

The perimeter and/or corners of the start gate must be clearly marked. Items used to mark the start gate must not pose a tripping hazard. Bales are not allowed to act as the Start Gate (box) perimeter.

It is recommended that handler and dog be able to exit the Start Gate from three sides without having to climb over an obstacle.

The box may be enlarged to accommodate for the disabled if needed

Teams must not enter or leave the box until directed to do so by the judge.

Rat Tube Location and Corresponding Procedures



The judge may hide any of the tubes (live, bedding or empty) anywhere on the course after taking the following into consideration;

Rat Tubes cannot be placed within 2' (0.6m) of the start gate.

Level 2: JRC requires at least one Rat Tube (Live, Bedding only or Empty) to be placed in a raised location where a climbing effort is involved.

Level 3: SRC requires at least one Live Rat Tube to be placed in a raised location where a climbing effort is involved.

The judge may place all Rat Tubes in a raised location, but may not place all Rat Tubes on the ground.

Rat Tube Locations must be switched in a random fashion after every 5th dog. The repositioned Rat Tube location does not constitute an official change in difficulty level irrespective of the tubes' previous locations.

Rat Tubes are to be covered with a loose pile of straw/hay to visually hide them from the handler and the dog. A heavy layer of straw may result in reducing the scent trail for the dog and possibly suffocating the rat.

The tubes must not be placed in an inaccessible area where the handler cannot get a visual cue for the dog's signal, or where a target location on the course forces the dog to leave the handlers line of sight.

A Rat Tube may be buried no more than the depth of one bale.

Rat Tubes for disabled handlers must be placed in areas of the course accessible to them and where the dog does not leave their line of sight.

Elimination from a dog during a run

Elimination during a run will result in a non-qualifying score for the dog.

If the dog eliminates, it must be immediately removed from the course. It is not allowed to continue.

Elimination includes; urination, defecation, spitting up and/or vomiting. This also encompasses gestures of squatting/markings from any dog.

Judge's Briefing

The judge, prior to each difficulty level and height division, will brief the handlers on the following;

- Where and how to bring the dog onto the course
- Being prompt to enter the course when called
- Where the waiting area is
- Permitted collars and leads
- Where the dog should be released



- Where the course exit and dog collar/leash will be at the end of the course
- An outline of the rules as to when and how time starts and stops,

- Inform the handlers of any specific course logistics,
- Where the official tunnel (or tunnels) are located
- The height expectations regarding the climbing effort
- To callout rat finds to the judge in a clear and loud voice

- Ask about any bitches in season.
- Discourage loud barking dogs
- Discourage dropping or bowling the dogs
- Reminder of the use of praise and reward

- Where spectators may/may not stand
- Discouraging/warning about target location callouts to competitors

- It is the discretion of the judge to offer time to answer questions from the handlers during the briefing.
- Handlers are expected to read and understand the rules of Canada Barn Hunts prior to the games.

Tunneling Explained

Tunneling is successfully completed when the dog enters one end of a tunnel and exits the other end of the same tunnel within the same attempt.

A dog who enters the tunnel and comes back out the same end has not completed the tunneling effort.

The dog may enter the tunnel from either end

If there is more than one official tunnel on the course, the dog must correctly traverse (enter and exit) at least one tunnel.

Climbing Explained

The climbing test is completed when the dog lands on the top of any bale with all four feet.

Jumping a bale without touching it, does not constitute a climb.

Incidental touching or grazing of the bale with remaining paws does not count as a successful climb.

Scaling bales in a stair like fashion, where hind quarters follow the front in a progressive and linear movement constitutes as a climbing effort.

The dog does not have to hold its position on a bale to successfully complete the climbing test.

Climbing efforts increase in difficulty as the level progress higher.



Marking the Find of the Rat

The handler must declare the find of the rat clearly and unmistakably to the judge. The judge will record the find.

It is the handler's responsibility to make the call in such a way that the judge can hear and understand it without question.

Calls should be declarative; not doubtful.

The judge may have the handler physically indicate the rat tube location as to specify the exact location.

The judge can request a specific word to be used as the call sign for a find. There is no penalty enforced if the handler forgets the call sign during the run. The handler may not ask the judge if the call that they are using is the correct one.

How the dog indicates the discovery of the rat tube is relevant only to the handler.

Staging/ Queuing Area

Handlers must wait in an area where the course and Rat Tube locations are not visible to them.

Handlers need only queue up to the fifth competitor, then reset again incrementally for another five competitors. (Rat Tube locations are changed after every fifth competitor with the exception of Level 5: Champion Rat-Catcher.)

Competitors in queue must wait for the signal from the gate/ line Steward, at which time the next handler in succession will progress in an efficient fashion to the start gate.

Handlers are responsible to keep their dogs as calm as possible while in the queuing area. Disruptive dogs may be asked to stage elsewhere.

Failure to proceed immediately to the start box when called, or causing unacceptable delay in the games may result in the competitor being skipped. A judge has the authority to declare a non-qualifying run against the competitor in this instance.

Dog Handling Protocol

- Handlers shall bring their dog into the enclosed course area on an approved collar and lead.
- All dogs will be released from within the start box.
- The handler may carry a small dog to the start box.
- Collars and leads must always be securely fastened to every dog until the entry gate is closed/secured/shut with the dog inside.



- Handlers must wait for the judge's command to release the dog onto the course.
- A false start occurs when dog and/or handler leave the start box before the judge's command will be called back to restart the process again.
- Handlers cannot attempt to persuade dogs in a direction of preferred travel by leaving the start box first. Handler and dog should leave the start box at approximately the same time.
- Handlers are not allowed to "bowl" the dog during the release at the start gate.
- Handlers will not tug or shove the dog upon release at the start gate.
- At least two of the dog's feet should be on the ground prior to release with the exception of a disabled person.
- Every dog must have its collar and leash attached before it leaves the course area after the run.
- The dog may only be carried off the course at the conclusion of the run if it is customary to the dog's behaviour. Carrying the dog cannot be physically uncomfortable for it and not constitute as a form of punishment.
- A dog is not allowed to be flipped on its back in order to remove it from the course.
- At no time will the judge interfere with the handler or dog.
- At no time will the handler or dog interfere with the judge.
- Handlers may not bring food, treats or toys into the ring.
- Handlers may not self-time in the ring.
- Leashes/collars are handed to the leash runner.
- Handlers are not allowed to step on or over any bales, except after calling out a noted find and then retrieving a Rat Tube if necessary.
- The handler can (and should) move around the course while the dog works to be able to view and call the find but should not touch any obstacles.
- The handler can enunciate encouragement to the dog. The handler may encourage the dog to search certain areas and can gesture in a general direction with a flat hand, but should not point directly at a rat tube.
- Prior to the call of the rat by the dog handler, his/her hand should be no closer than 1ft (0.3m) away from any tube.
- The handler may not ask anyone if they have found the correct rat tube.
- No One (including spectators) are allowed to indicate where a correct Rat Tube is located.



- At no time may the handler harshly command, berate, yell at, or otherwise attempt to bully or intimidate the dog.
- Profanity is not allowed.

Reward and Restraint on the Course:

Praise and reward are allowed while adhering to the following criteria;

If the dog has successfully found the target, the owner may briefly praise the dog, point to and slightly wriggle the Rat-Tube. They may then move onto completing the remaining course requirements, if any.

If the dog handler requires that Rat-Tubes be manually removed, they must restrain their dog so that the Rat-Handler can proceed safely to do so. Restraining the dog should be done by placing hand and/or arms loosely (yet securely) around the chest and neck area of the dog.

If dog handlers require to climb a bale in order to gain a foothold to access a Rat-Tube, they may do so. If they are physically unable to climb, they may call for the assistance of the Rat-Handler.

To avoid a loss of time, it is recommended that owners refrain from praising their dog and to also minimise the intervention of the Rat-Handler.

Pulling, ripping, grabbing of any part of the dog is forbidden.

Throwing or tossing Rat-Tubes is forbidden.

Handlers must always restrain their dog before a Rat-Handler takes action.

Safely Removing the Rat Tube(s) during a run

There are three options that dog handlers can use to safely remove the rat tube in cases where there are multiple targets to find or that there are still elements to complete on the course after the rat has been found.

- (1) Do not remove the tube at all. The dog handler may simply carry-on with the run without removing the Rat Tube. The dog handler is allowed to touch/wriggle the Rat Tube as an act of praise for the dog, but it is otherwise left where it was found.
- (2) The dog handler passes the Rat Tube to the Rat Handler. The dog handler may pick up the tube and pass it over to the Rat Handler. Both parties are to keep the Rat Tube level as to not harm the rat. The dog handler may use one or two hands, to do so in order to restrain the dog from interfering in the transfer.
- (3) The rat handler removes the tube. If requested, the rat handler may remove the rat tube.



The dog handler must inform the judge while in they are in the start gate for a Rat handler assistant. A 'split' decision to ask the rat handler to remove the tube during the run is allowed.

The Rat Handler will not remove any Rat Tubes until the dog is restrained by the dog handler. The distance between the dog and the Rat Tube must be no less than 2ft (0.6m). The dog is to be remained restrained until the Rat Handler is safe.

It is recommended that dog handlers choose the full assistance of the Rat Handler if they are unsure of their own physical abilities on the course and if the dog will not respond to option one.

Dogs that nip or bite at their handler and/or rat handler during the removal of a Rat Tube will be automatically scored as a non-qualifying. These dogs and their handlers must immediately vacate the course. They will not be considered an aggressive dog.

Judges may never remove a rat tube.

Scoring Guidelines

Qualifying Scores:

- All dogs who successfully complete the tunneling and climbing efforts and correctly find the rats in the allotted course time will receive qualifying scores
- Placements at each level are determined by the fastest time.
- Each height division within each difficulty level is placed separately.

Non-Qualifying Scores:

Non Qualifying Scores will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Handler fails to correctly indicate any/all live rat tubes within the allotted course time
- Dog fails to complete an Official Tunnel
- Dog fails to complete a climbing effort
- Dog eliminates on the course
- Handler uses overly harsh or abusive actions toward dog
- Handler pulls at the dog's skin or picks up dog in an effort to remove Rat Tubes
- Illegal collar and/or lead on show grounds and/or start gate
- Handler takes leash/harness/collar off before entering start gate, or fails to reattach leash/harness/collar before exiting enclosure



- Handler deliberately persuades the dog out of the start box
- Handler uses profanity while on the course
- Handler self-times on course
- Handler steps on/over bale during the hunt (handler may step on a bale to remove rat after a find, but not during the hunt)
- Handler attempts to persuade the dog by touching or patting a bale to get the dog to climb
- Handler touches the dog after release and prior to completion of the run omitting authorized reward tactics and restraining the dog for Rat Handler intervention.
- Handler bowls or drops the dog
- Dog nips/bites handler or rat handler in the process of removing a Rat Tube
- Communication from outside the ring that does/could aid the competitor in locating the target or completing course criteria

Penalties

A False Start occurs when competitors leave the start box before being directed to so by the judge. The competitor will be called back to the start box to reset the run and subsequently make another attempt at the course. A false start will result in a 20 second penalty to the run time. A total of two false starts are permitted. If the competitors do not succeed to start the course after 2 false starts (three tries total), they will be marked as a non-qualifying score.

Disqualifications

A disqualification may result when a dog overtly threatens or bites/attacks handler, judge, or any other person on or off the course.

It is the judge's decision to disqualify the dog if the incident takes place on the course. It is the Event Officials' decision if the incident takes place off the course.

Unsportsmanlike behavior from dog handler to judge, rat handler, crew or another competitor.

Pre-meditated aid from outside the course

Failure to report bitch in season

Any disqualification may result in dismissal from the games and/or any or all upcoming events

Tied Scores



A tiebreaker will occur in the event that two or more dogs of the same height division and difficulty level score the same time.

For the tiebreaker run, one live Rat Tube is hidden on the course. Competitors are to be informed as to the location of the Rat Tube.

There are no additional Rat Tube types present.

There are no additional course requirements enforced during a tiebreaker.

Each competitor will run the course separately.

Time starts when the dog handler releases the dog from their hands.

The fastest dog to reach and correctly indicate the location of the rat wins the tie.

Titles and Difficulty Level Descriptions

Titles

- Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher - BRC
- Level 2: Junior Rat-Catcher - JRC
- Level 3: Senior Rat-Catcher - SRC
- Level 4: Master Rat-Catcher - MRC
- Level 5: Champion Rat- Catcher - CRC

GCRC – Grand Champion Rat-Catcher of Canada Barn Hunts

Awarded after 10 Champion Rat-Catcher CRC wins, not including the original CRC win.

UGCRC – Ultimate Grand Champion Rat-Catcher of Canada Barn Hunts

Awarded after 25 Champion Rat-Catcher CRC wins, not including the original CRC win

Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher Veteran - BRCV

Level 2: Junior Rat-Catcher Veteran - JRCV

Level 3: Senior Rat-Catcher Veteran - SRCV

Level 4: Master Rat-Catcher Veteran - MRCV

Level 5: Champion Rat- Catcher Veteran - CRCV

GCRCV – Grand Champion Rat-Catcher Veteran of Canada Barn Hunts

Awarded after 10 Champion Rat-Catcher CRC wins, not including the original CRC win.

UGCRCV – Ultimate Grand Champion Rat-Catcher Veteran of Canada Barn Hunts

Awarded after 25 Champion Rat-Catcher CRC wins, not including the original CRC win

Difficulty Levels



Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher - BRC

- The Purpose of this test is for the dog to correctly identify the Live Rat Tube.
- Three PVC tubes placed in plain sight on the course; one dry, one with bedding only and one live.
- Tunnels and climbing obstacles are present on the course; however, interaction/completion criteria of these obstacles is not judged.
- Time starts when the dog is released onto the course. There is no Start Gate.
- Time allotted is one minute. For Veterans division allow for an additional one minute.
- One successful run is required to achieve this title.

During Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher – BRC, the Rat Handler will come to aid of the competitor only after he or she has been called upon to do so first by said competitor. Generally Rat-Handler intervention is not required for Level 1 difficulty.

Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher – BRC Course schematic available in Appendix B

Beginner Rat-Catcher difficulty level is intended for competitors who have no previous history to the sport, or for competitors who do not possess a previously authorised pass for this difficulty level. The Beginner Rat-Catcher course may be used as a warm-up activity for other competitors.

Level 2: Junior Rat-Catcher - JRC

- Three qualifying legs are required.
- Three Rat Tubes are placed on the course; one dry, one with bedding only, and one Live.
- The dog must find the Live Rat Tube, complete one tunneling effort and one climbing effort of at least 2 bales high.
- Time: Two minutes. For Veterans division allow for an additional one minute.
- Time starts when the dog or handler exits the Start Gate.
- Time stops only when the dog has completed all physical criteria and the handler has signaled the rat find to the judge.
- The dog handler may order the rat handler to remove the live rat if the tunneling and/or climbing criteria have yet not been satisfied.
- A non-qualifying score will occur if the handler announces an incorrect tube to the judge as indicated from the dog.
- The competitors reserve the right to complete the course or have the judge correctly identify the location of the live rat tube in the event that a non-qualifying score has been given.
- It is recommended that the rat tube remain in place on the course if possible as not to waste time.

Level 3: Senior Rat-Catcher - SRC

- Courses must be more complex than Level 2: Junior Rat –Catcher, with 1-2 tunnels and a climbing effort of at least 3 bales high.
- At least one live rat tube must be reached with a climbing effort.
- Three qualifying runs are required.
- Five Rat Tubes are placed on the course; one dry, two with bedding only, and two Live.



- Time: Two minutes and 30 seconds. For Veterans division allow for an additional one minute.
- Time starts when the dog or handler exits the Start Gate.
- Time stops only when the dog has completed all physical criteria and the handler has signaled all rat finds to the judge.
- After the first live rat find, the dog must successfully redirect to hunt for the second.
- A non-qualifying score will occur if the handler announces an incorrect tube to the judge as indicated from the dog.
- The competitors reserve the right to complete the course or have the judge correctly identify the location of the closest live rat tube in the event that a non-qualifying score has been given.

Level 4: Master Rat-Catcher - MRC

- Courses must be more complex than Level 3: Senior Rat –Catcher, with 2 to 3 turns inside 1 to 2 tunnels and a climbing effort of at least 4 bales high.
- At least one live rat tube must be reached with a climbing effort.
- Three qualifying legs are required.
- Eight Rat Tubes are placed on the course; one dry, three with bedding only, and four Live.
- Time: Three minutes and 30 seconds. For Veterans division allow for an additional one minute.
- Time starts when the dog or handler exits the Start Gate.
- Time stops only when the dog has completed all physical criteria and the handler has signaled all rat finds to the judge.
- After each live rat find, the dog must successfully redirect to hunt for the next.
- A non-qualifying score will occur if the handler announces an incorrect tube to the judge as indicated from the dog.
- The competitors reserve the right to complete the course or have the judge correctly identify the location of the closest live rat tube in the event that a non-qualifying score has been given.

Level 5: Champion Rat-Catcher - CRC

- Courses must be more complex than Level: 4 Master Rat-Catcher, with 2 to 3 turns inside 2 to 3 tunnels and a climbing effort of at least 5 bales high.
- Five qualifying runs supervised by at least two judges are required.
- Ten rat are tubes placed on the course. All Tubes contain bedding.
- A random amount of live rats from 1 to 5 total, (number of live rat tubes are changed entirely at random) are setup within the Rat Tubes.
- Time: 4 minutes and 30 seconds. For Veterans division allow for an additional one minute.
- Time starts when the dog or handler exits the Start Gate.
- Time stops only when the dog has successfully completed all physical criteria and when the handler believes that the dog has completed the search by indicating the location of all the rats on the course. The handler will announce to the judge that the dog is finished.



- The run is deemed a non-qualifier if the handler announces an incorrect tube to the judge as indicated from the dog.
- The competitors do not reserve the right to complete the course nor will the judge identify any remaining live rat tubes in the event that a non-qualifying score is given.
- If there is more than one live rat on the course, at least one live rat tube must be reached with a climbing effort. If there is only one live rat, it may be located anywhere on the course.

Recommended Protocol for Clubs

Entry fees will not be refunded in the event that a dog is absent, disqualified, excused, or barred from competition by action(s) of Event Officials.

Hosting clubs should specify and record any refund policy to be made in the case of games cancellation due to weather or acts of god, etc. Host clubs are not required to give any refund; such information should be stated in the premium.

Host clubs should specify information regarding any recompense offered in the case of an injured dog or handler.

Clubs should give a date range after which refunds and/or recompense will no longer be accepted.

Competitors are responsible for being ready to go to the waiting area and to be attentive to the progress of the run order.

The club has no obligation or responsibility for providing a Loud Speaker system or a designated staff for the sole purpose to shout out or call upon competitors who have not queued properly.

Owners/Handlers are responsible for error checking when completing entry forms; regardless of who may or may not have made such errors.

Post Dated or NSF cheques do not constitute a valid entry fee. There is a \$__.00 bounced cheque charge. Partial payment does not constitute as a valid entry fee.

Every Owner/Handler (whether competing or not in the games) is responsible for cleaning up after their dog(s). Anyone failing to do so may be dismissed from the games and venue entirely without refund.



Appendix A

Waivers, Agreements and Releases

Please consult with your own provincial/territorial laws, as well as any applicable local by-laws regarding waivers of liability and onus.

Canada Barn Hunts does not guarantee that the following example waiver and information will protect a club or group from liability and it is intended as a sample only.

Certification of Agreement upon Registration or Entry of Dog

*****SAMPLE ONLY*****

It is recommended to include a similar affidavit to all competitor entry forms and that it is signed and its contents are understood

I certify that I am the rightful owner of the dog, or that I am the authorised handler to act on behalf of the owner, whose name I have entered above. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I (we) agree to abide by the policies and procedures Canada Barn Hunts to which are enforce as of now and in the future. I/we also agree to be bound by the liability waiver enclosed with my/our entry. I/we certify and represent that the dog entered is not a health hazard or considered to be dangerous to persons or other dogs. I/we agree to conduct myself/ourselves in accordance with all Canada Barn Hunts policies and procedures and to abide by any decisions made in accord with them and all the laws applicable to my/our local area.

Liability Waiver

*****SAMPLE ONLY*****

It is recommended to include a similar affidavit to all competitor entry forms and that it is signed and its contents are understood

I/we agree that the club holding the Canada Barn Hunts Games has the right to refuse this entry for cause in which the club shall deem sufficient. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry and of the holding of this event and of the opportunity to win prizes, I/we agree to hold Canada Barn Hunts, the event-giving club, their members, directors, governors, officers, agents, event secretary and the owner and/or lessor of the premises and any provider of services that are necessary to hold this event and any employees or volunteers of the aforementioned parties, and any Canada Barn Hunts approved judge, judging at this event, harmless from any claim for loss or injury which may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of this dog while in or about the event premises or grounds or near any entrance thereto, and I/we personally assume all responsibility and liability for any such claim; and I/we further agree not to hold the aforementioned parties responsible for any claim for loss, injury or damage to this dog.

I/we hereby assume the sole responsibility for and agree to indemnify, defend and save the aforementioned parties without blame 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 due to bodily harm, including death at any time resulting from or 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, however such, injuries, death or property damage may be caused, and whether or not the same may have been caused or may be alleged to have been caused by the negligence of the aforementioned parties or any of their employees, agents, or any other persons.

Media Release Form

*****SAMPLE ONLY*****

I/we hereby authorize the club-appointed videographer(s) and/or photographer(s) to use, reproduce, and/or publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to me/us, including my image, likeness and/or voice without compensation. I/we understand that this material may be used in various publications, public affairs releases, recruitment materials, the Canada Barn Hunts website, yahoo group or Facebook page, or for other related media. This authorization is continuous and may only be withdrawn by my/our specific rescission of this authorization. Consequently, the Canada Barn Hunts or host club may publish materials, use my name, photograph, and/or make reference to me in any manner that the corporation or project sponsor deems appropriate in order to promote/publicize service opportunities.

Appendix B

Level 1: Beginner Rat-Catcher – BRC
Standard qualifying course layout

Appendix C

Rat Tube Construction

THIS SCHEMATIC IS PULLED DIRECTLY FROM THE USA VERSION

List of materials:

- (1) 10" section of schedule 40 PVC pipe, 4" diameter
- (1) 4" clean-out drain cap
- (1) 4" clean-out plug
- (1) 4" PVC snap in Drain

Drill and bit to drill 5/16" air holes in pipe

Cut a piece of the 4" diameter Sch40 pipe 10 inches long. Place the snap in drain into one end of the pipe section and the clean-out cap on the other end. There are 8 ridges on the clean-out cap which you can use as guides for drilling the air holes if you want straight lines. Just use a chalk line and line it up on the ridges and then snap the chalk line to leave a straight line on the pipe. Drill 5/16" holes about an inch apart along this line the length of the pipe leaving room at each end for the cap and plug to fit in; you should have 8 lines of holes. Screw the clean-out plug into the clean-out cap and paint as desired. Combinations of light tans, browns or mossy greens help the tubes not stand out against straw or hay so obviously.

Glueing the end pieces should not be necessary, but if you find that dogs are able to pry off either end you may need to do some glueing. Try not to glue though as it is nice to be able to take the tubes apart and wash them easily with a hose and some bleach water.

side view

clean out drain cap

interior view

snap in drain26