



Official Rulebook

Judges Guidelines

The Rat Wrangler in Barn Hunt

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Amendment 9/20/14: National Championship Titles

Amendment 2/20/15: Master Class Rules

Amendment 12/1/15: Fee Change Announcement

Amendment 1/8/16: New Fun Test Rules

Amendment 12/1/15

Fee Changes effective January 1, 2016

All fees listed in this document change to the following:

Individual Dog Registration Fee: \$30

Fun Test Event Fee: \$30

Licensed Trial Fee per Trial: \$30

Per-run fee: \$1.75

Club Application fee: \$25 annually

Amendment 1/8/16

Fun Test Class Amendment, effective immediately

Fun tests must be run like a Licensed Barn Hunt trial in all ways, with the following exceptions:

- An official Barn Hunt judge is suggested but may or may not be required, depending on the experience level of the club
- Competitors may enter any level they wish at a Fun Test, and may enter more than one level and/or multiple times at the same level if allowed by the club (i.e., clubs may allow competitors to enter Novice multiple times with the same dog and/or may allow the competitor to enter the same dog in Novice, Open, Senior, and Master)
- Clubs may choose to allow training in the ring, and if allowing training, whether or not treats will be allowed in the ring. All regular ring and rat safety and handling rules apply. Training must be completed within the time allowed for the course entered. As soon as the judge confirms training is occurring, the judge calls TRAINING to the scribe, who marks an X on the scribe sheet. The judge monitors but does not aid, assist, or further judge any training activities other than pointing out a rat location on request. Dogs being trained in the ring do not qualify for any offered class awards. *If training in the ring:*
 - Dogs may remain on a collar/leash if no tunneling effort is to be attempted, and/or the handler may openly carry a collar/leash. A collar/leash may never be used punitively in the ring or to pull a dog through a tunnel or up onto a bale. A collar/leash may be used to steady a dog and prevent the rat tube from being roughed.
 - Handlers may carry and use toys in the ring.
 - All treats, if allowed, must be kept in a pocket or waist pack and may not be placed on a tube or a bale, but must be directly fed to the dog. Any dropped treats must be completely removed by the competitor.
 - Handlers may train in the ring in other ways, but no punitive/harsh training is allowed and no training which would harm the rat is allowed. Punitive/harsh training is grounds for dismissal from the Fun Test grounds.

Placement ribbons are optional. *When offered, placement ribbons are for exhibitors who do not train in the ring.* Qualifying ribbons of any type are not allowed. (If ribbons are given, they must be in accordance with the ribbon criteria in this document.)

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Barn Hunt Association LLC Rules and Regulations

Part 1: Overview

SECTION 1. History.

Barn Hunt is based on the hunting and teamwork skills historically used by Ratcatchers and their dogs who traveled the countryside ridding farms of vermin, thus helping to conserve and preserve food grains and protect inhabitants from disease. Ratcatchers used a variety of terriers and go-to-ground breeds (small dogs bred to go under the earth after prey), but also non go-to-ground breeds such as Manchesters, Schnauzers, Pinschers, and a variety of other breeds and mixes. These working dogs and breeds have never had an officially licensed test which truly simulates their traditional task. The sport of Barn Hunt fills that role.

SECTION 2. Purpose.

The purpose of Barn Hunt is to demonstrate a dog's vermin hunting ability in finding and marking rats in a "barn-like" setting, using straw/hay bales to introduce climbing and tunneling obstacles in the dog's path. Barn Hunt events may be held indoors or outdoors. An actual barn is not required to hold a Barn Hunt event.

Any breed or mix of dog 6 months of age or older who can fit through an 18" wide by bale-height tall (approximately 20"-22") tunnel constructed of straw/hay bales is eligible to enter a Barn Hunt trial. The sport tests speed, agility, hunt drive, scenting ability, surefootedness, and control and responsiveness to handler direction. While Barn Hunt has roots and origins as a way to test working drives in dogs bred to hunt vermin, Barn Hunt is for any dog and handler who wish to play the game, including large dogs, pet dogs, altered dogs, and dogs of breeds or mixes of breeds without a vermin-hunting history.

Barn Hunt is a sporting event, and as such there are levels of difficulty, placements, titles, and championships. The dog's ability to hunt and the handler's ability to read the dog's signal so that they work as a team are tested.

SECTION 3. Code of Good Sportsmanship.

All participants and spectators attending Barn Hunt events are required to operate as good sportsmen and sports-women. Good sportsmanship includes honesty, courtesy, respect, and being gracious in both victory and defeat. No harsh punitive or corrective training is allowed on trial grounds. Any handler who verbally or physically abuses his or her dog either in or out of the ring can face discipline from a verbal warning, dismissal from class, dismissal from show grounds and up to expulsion from future events, depending on the severity of the infraction. Handlers and spectators should show good sportsmanship toward the judge, show committee, stewards and competitors. Displays of poor sportsmanship will result in disciplinary action from the trial committee. The BHA, LLC empowers the Trial Chair and committee to make disciplinary decisions on behalf of the BHA, LLC, and all decisions made at a trial are considered official BHA rulings. Parties may appeal permanent bans to the BHA who will make a final decision on whether or not the person(s) involved will be able to return to any Barn Hunt event.

Barn Hunt is a family-friendly sport. Actions which would cause a family with young children to conclude the sport is inappropriate will result in disciplinary action.

Part 2: Definitions

- 1) **Club.** A club is any organization or group of individuals who wish to hold an event using BHA rules. A club can be a commercial entity (such as a for-profit dog training facility), a group/club that is licensed by another organization, or a group of individuals. The BHA, LLC does not license or endorse official BHA, LLC clubs. However, each club must apply to the BHA, LLC before holding any Barn Hunt Trial or Fun Test organized and executed using BHA, LLC rules. For the purposes of this document, the word "club" will be used to denote any/all of the allowed combinations above.
 - Training clinics/workshops/seminars are not considered BHA LLC events, and are not held under BHA LLC rules. Clubs holding such events do so at their own risk. The BHA, LLC takes no responsibility for any incident at any unofficial training clinic/workshop/seminar.

- 2) **Fun Test.** A Fun Test is an official, licensed, *practice* event for Barn Hunt. Fun Tests are a way to introduce new competitors to the sport and a way for new clubs to work to become licensed to hold official Barn Hunt Trials.
- Only official Fun Tests may be advertised as Fun Tests. Clinics, workshops, training sessions, rat-n-gos or other unofficial events cannot be called Fun Tests.
 - All new clubs must hold at least one Fun Test prior to becoming licensed to hold a Barn Hunt Trial.
 - Fun tests must be applied for through the Barn Hunt Association (www.barnhunt.com). A single \$25 fee covers up to two consecutive days of Fun Tests. There are no per-run fees payable to Barn Hunt assessed for Fun Tests.
 - Fun Tests must carry event insurance including a “hold harmless” agreement naming the Barn Hunt Association LLC. Barn Hunt Association LLC must also be named as Additional Insured and Indemnified (5117 S Brock Rodgers Rd, Columbia, MO 65201). A copy of the insurance must be uploaded to the Barn Hunt Register through Secretary Functions/Event Uploads (*see Trial Packet and Register Guide*) at least 15 days prior to the Fun Test.
 - Fun tests must be run like a Licensed Barn Hunt trial in all ways, except that an official Barn Hunt judge is suggested but not required, and placement ribbons are optional. Qualifying ribbons are not allowed. (If ribbons are given, they must be in accordance with the ribbon criteria in this document.) This includes producing premiums, accepting entries, all ring set ups and judging, run orders, staging, rat care and welfare, and producing trial reports for the BHA LLC. Trial reports are due within 5 business days of the Fun Test(s) and are not recorded but reviewed for accuracy.
 - Fun Tests may be held on the same day as a workshop/clinic/seminar/rat-n-go, but in separate areas or at separate times.
 - Fun tests must be applied for at least 30 days in advance of the test date.
 - A Fun Test and a Licensed Trial cannot be held in the same location on the same date.
 - Existing clubs who have already been approved to hold Licensed Trials may hold a Fun Test the day before or the day after an official trial as well as any other time the club wishes other than on the day of a trial.
 - Competitors do not earn qualifying scores toward any Barn Hunt title when participating a Fun Test.
 - Fun Tests are required to offer Instinct and Novice classes. Upper level classes (Open, Senior, and Master) may be offered but are not required. Which classes will be offered must be designated in the Fun Test Premium.
 - New clubs must hold a Fun Test a minimum of 90 days prior to holding their first official Barn Hunt Trial and a new club Fun Test must include Instinct, Novice and Open classes at a minimum.
 - ***A Barn Hunt Registration Number is not required for a dog to be entered in a Fun Test.***

Licensed Trial. A Licensed Barn Hunt Trial is a collection of classes at various levels of difficulty from Instinct through Master, licensed by the BHA LLC, where competitor/dog teams have an opportunity to earn qualifying scores/legs toward Barn Hunt titles.

- 3) Trials must be applied for through the Barn Hunt Association (www.barnhunt.com). A fee of \$25 per trial applies. A per-run fee of \$1.50 applies. This \$1.50 fee per-run fee is for all runs (a “run” is each time a dog is scheduled to step foot in the ring) entered in the trial, including absences and excusals. If an entry fee is refunded in full to the competitor, the per-run fee does not apply.
- A club may offer as many as two trials per day.
 - Licensed Trials must carry event insurance including a “hold harmless” agreement naming the Barn Hunt Association LLC. Barn Hunt Association LLC must also be named as Additional Insured and Indemnified (5117 S. Brock Rodgers Rd, Columbia, MO 65201). A copy of the insurance must be uploaded to the Barn Hunt Register through Secretary Functions/Event Uploads (*see Trial Packet and Register Guide*) at least 15 days prior to the Licensed Trial.

- Trials must be applied for at least 60 days in advance of the trial date.
 - All trial reports and per-run fees are due to the Barn Hunt office within 5 business days of the conclusion of an event.
 - Clubs may be allowed to limit classes offered at a Licensed Trial to Instinct, Novice and Open only (special permission from the BHA LLC required). Clubs offering any upper level classes (Senior, Master) must offer all upper level classes. **For events consisting of one or more trials offering all levels of competition, One Master-Only trial may be held the day prior and/or the day after the event. These Master-Only trials are in addition to the regular schedule of classes for trials held during an event and do not excuse the club from holding a Master class at their regular trial.** Trials offering Day of Show entries must allow entries at all levels the trial has listed in its Premium, even if no pre-entries were received for that level.
 - **A Barn Hunt Registration Number is required for all dogs entering a Licensed Barn Hunt Trial and must be included on the entry form.** An entry form submitted without a Barn Hunt Registration number or with an incorrect Barn Hunt number does not constitute a valid entry. (see *Secretary's Handbook*).
 - A workshop/clinic/seminar/rat-n-go may not be held prior to any trial being held on the same date, nor during trial hours, nor less than 30 minutes after the completion of the last trial of any trial date.
- 4) **Event.** An event is a collection of trials over a contiguous series of days. For an example, a two day weekend holding four trials is a single event.
 - 5) **Judge of Record.** A licensed Barn Hunt judge who is contracted by a club as an official judge for a trial or trials. The Judge of Record is listed in the Premium and is responsible for designing courses and judging entrants into the trial. (See *Judge Guidelines: Part 2: Becoming a Judge* for criteria to become a judge.)
 - A Judge of Record may enter their own dog(s) in a trial in which they are judging if a Back Up Judge is available.
 - 6) **Back Up Judge.** A licensed Barn Hunt judge who attends an event and agrees to judge the dogs of a Judge of Record for the trial. (See *Judge Guidelines: Part 8: Back Up Judges* for a full description of Back Up Judge duties and criteria.)
 - A Back Up Judge may enter and/or show any dog at an event without restriction.
 - A Back Up Judge is not a Judge of Record at the event and is not listed in the Premium.
 - A Back Up Judge does not design any courses for the event in which he/she serving as a Back Up Judge.
 - 7) **Assistant Judge.** A prospective judge who is learning judging procedure. (See *Judge Guidelines: Part 9: Assistant Judge* for a full description of Assistant Judge duties and criteria.)
 - 8) **Empty Tube.** A tube constructed to the specifications in *Appendix C* with no litter or rat; it should be clean but may be a tube previously used to house litter and/or a rat.
 - 9) **Litter Tube.** A tube constructed to the specifications in *Appendix C* with approximately 1 cup of used rat litter in it. The litter must be the same type as that used in the live rat tubes. No special accommodations or aging should be applied; litter should be taken from the current housing of the rats. The litter must have rat scent. The litter must be loose in the tube, not enclosed in any type of packaging.
 - 10) **Rat tube/live tube.** A tube constructed to the specifications in *Appendix C* with one rat and approximately 1 cup of litter. The litter in the rat tube must be the rat's regular litter type, and the same type as is used in the litter tube.

Part 3: Holding a Barn Hunt Event

SECTION 1. Barn Hunt Logo.

The official Barn Hunt Association LLC logo may only be used with permission, for sanctioned Fun Tests or Licensed Trials, and on approved BHA LLC merchandise. Any use of the logo without permission is absolutely forbidden. The Barn Hunt logo is available at Hodges Ribbon and several other ribbon retailers. To request use of the logo email barnhuntassoc@gmail.com with the request.

SECTION 2. Distance between events.

No Barn Hunt event (either a Licensed Trial or a Fun Test) can be held by two different clubs on the same date within 200 miles using Google Maps driving route measurements, without the express mutual written permission of both clubs. The club whose application is received with completed payment first gets priority. Annual weekends are not reserved.

SECTION 3. Club Move-up Policy

Clubs may choose to offer move-ups for those teams who complete a title while at their event. Move-ups can be from trial to trial, day to day, or no move-ups allowed. The move-up policy must be stated in the Premium.

SECTION 4. Class Order

- 1) Instinct must be offered once per day but is not required to be offered twice at events with two trials per day.
- 2) Instinct can always be run concurrently with another class but should be staggered with Novice such that exhibitors can run their dogs in each class without conflict (e.g. assuming small to large running order, Novice small doesn't start until Instinct small ends).
- 3) Instinct must be run first each day. Clubs offering one trial per day with trial to trial move-ups or no move-ups may run Instinct through Master or Instinct/Master through Novice. (i.e., a club with one trial on Saturday and one trial on Sunday may run from Instinct through Master on day one and Instinct and Master, either consecutively or concurrently, through Novice on day two.)
- 4) Clubs offering two trials per day may run each trial consecutively or concurrently.
 - If each trial is run consecutively, Trial 1 is offered in the morning and Trial 2 in the afternoon. Courses must be built from Instinct/Novice through Master in Trial 1. Trial 2 can either be run Instinct/Novice through Master, or Master through Novice/Instinct.
 - If trials are run concurrently, clubs allowing trial-to-trial move-ups must offer Instinct and Novice Trial 1 first, followed by Instinct (if offered) and Novice Trial 2, followed by Open Trial 1 and Open Trial 2, Senior Trial 1 and Senior Trial 2 then Master Trial 1 and Master Trial 2
 - If trials are run concurrently, clubs not offering Trial-to-trial move-ups may choose to run from Instinct through Master or Master through Instinct as outlined in the bullets above.

5) Master-only trials may be held, see Licensed Trial definitions for details

SECTION 5. Grounds, Blinds, and Course Enclosures.

Barn Hunt Trials and Fun Tests may be held in a modestly sized space. Trial grounds are required to be handicap accessible. Rings must be situated on a flat, or nearly flat, surface/ground. Rings must be securely enclosed, with the enclosure not larger than the maximum ring size for the class level being held.

- 1) A blinded area/enclosure must be available for each Barn Hunt ring to stage the next 5 competitors getting ready to show. The blind must be no less than 20 feet from the ring. The minimum size for the blind is 10' x 10' or 100 square feet. Chairs are desired but not required. No more than 5 dogs are allowed in each 10' x 10'/100 sq ft blinded area. Contiguous 10' x 10'/100 sq ft blind areas may be set up. There must be at least one blinded area per ring.
- 2) Other than dogs in the blind and dogs entering the ring, working, and exiting the ring, no dog may be within 20 feet of any fenced/gated side of any ring. Dogs may not be within 10 feet of any walled side of any ring.

- 3) Barn Hunt is a spectator sport, and spectators (other than those in the blind) should be able to view the dogs working in the ring and are not required to be a specific minimum distance away. Clubs may specify the distance spectators can be from the ring depending on conditions, but never so far away that spectators cannot view dogs working.
- 4) The secure enclosure must consist of any combination of wall(s) and/or fencing/gating materials. Fencing/gating must be not less than four feet or more than five feet in height, secured in such a way that a dog cannot readily escape from the bottom or top. The secure enclosure must provide some visual as well as physical deterrent for the dog.
 - The preferred fencing/gating material is white plastic lattice enclosed by PVC frames in 4' and 8' sections which can be secured to each other. The bottom of the PVC frame must be at ground level. (see **Appendix D: Lattice Fencing Photos**)
 - Wire ex pen gating may be used as a supplementary back up to more open gating such as hog panels or short PVC gates. When used this way, the ex pen gating must be securely affixed to the more rigid gating material. Ex pen gating may not be used alone or in any combination which allows the ex pen gating to fold, flex or push aside if a dog impacts the fencing.
 - Plastic “snow” fencing may be used if both securely affixed to well-anchored posts every 4' and also anchored along the base, such as with tent stakes at least every 1', or folded under and anchored with boards or bales in such a way that dogs cannot escape under the fence by pushing on it. Plastic fencing must also have stiffening such as a line or cord across the top edge. Plastic fencing can also be used as a filler material in PVC frames. Plastic fencing cannot be used if not secured to a frame or anchored as described. Plastic fencing may not be of fine, transparent material. It must be substantial, orange plastic snow fencing strongly recommended.
 - Accordion “baby” gates cannot be used as a primary gating material but may be used to add a component of visual deterrence to existing fencing.
 - Chicken wire or any material with sharp ends or edges cannot be used.
 - Clubs who are using other gating/fencing materials not described in these rules or are unsure if their current fencing will comply with BHA rules should email photos of their current gating/fencing to barnhuntassoc@gmail.com. The BHA will review and advise clubs on gating/fencing.
- 5) The following information must be communicated/provided to the Judge(s) of Record at least 21 days prior to a trial so accurate and safe courses can be designed:
 - Exact course size and dimensions
 - Whether the course is indoors, outdoors, or a combination and whether there will be shade, heat, air conditioning, etc.
 - Footing/grounds material (i.e., dirt, gravel, concrete, rubber, grass, etc.)
 - Any protuberances or hazards on the course such as pillars
 - Number and location of walls, if any
 - Gating/fencing material and height
 - Number and dimensions of ramps and boards
 - Potential entry and exit locations
 - Blind locations in relation to the ring
 - Exact measurement and number of bales to be used in each course level within the range of the course specifications below

Course Specifications by Level					
	Instinct	Novice	Open	Senior	Master
Course Enclosure Size	15' x 20' min to 20' x 20' max (or 300 to 400 sq ft equivalent)	20' x 20' min to 20' x 24' max (or 400 to 480 sq ft equivalent)		24' x 24' min to 25' x 30' max (or 576 to 750 sq ft equivalent)	
Number of bales	See Appendix B	20 to 30	25 to 40	35 to 60	50 minimum
Tunnel Specs	See Appendix B	No turn	One turn	2-3 turns	2-5
Bale maximum stack height	See Appendix B	2	3	4	4
Number of tubes	3	3	5	8	12*

* 8 tubes are on the course at all times. A total of 14 tubes on hand allows the club to have an adequate number of live and litter tubes standing by to quickly switch locations for each dog

SECTION 6. Course Materials and Equipment.

The materials used on a Barn Hunt course are

- 1) **Straw (preferred) or hay bales.** “Two stringer” wheat straw bales are preferred. If wire is used for bale ties, all ends must be examined and any protrusions bent into the straw. In addition to constructed/tied bales, a minimum of two to three bales worth of loose straw must be available to hide tubes and provide visual camouflage.
 - Straw bale sizes vary geographically. Exact dimensions of the bales you will be using must be provided to the judge(s) for course design.

- 2) **Ramps and Boards.** Ramps are sturdy supports from 18" to 24" wide and 3' to 4' long. Boards are from a minimum of 24" by 36" to a maximum of 48" by 48". Both are constructed of wood or other sturdy substance, with a non-slip surface such as sanded paint, rubber, or carpet. Ramps are used as an aid for small dogs to ascend from one level to another on the course. Ramps and boards are used as a roof support for tunnels and/or as a bridge from one set of bales to another.
 - Must support at least 200 pounds in weight.
 - Corners must be rounded.
 - Two 4" to 6" long blunt-ended bolts may be drilled through one end (for a ramp) or both ends (for a board or bridge), spaced evenly apart to be used to push through the straw below and anchor the board/ramp/bridge securely. These bolts must always be anchored in straw and never protrude into empty space such as a tunnel opening. Bolts should be removable.
 - Clubs must have a minimum of two ramps and two boards per ring and must indicate their number and dimensions to the judge(s) of record.

- 3) **Instinct Cradle (Optional).** For the Barn Hunt Instinct ring, a cradle or mount can be constructed to safely hold rat tubes in place and prevent them from being shoved and knocked around by the dog.
 - The Instinct Cradle must be constructed in such a way that each side of each rat tube is exposed except for the bottom “under” side which would normally be in contact with the ground
 - The Instinct Cradle must be constructed in such a way that judges can easily switch the locations of the tubes in the cradle.
 - Each tube in the Instinct Cradle must be spaced 12" (minimum) to 18" (maximum) apart, measuring either from the centerline of each tube or the edges of each tube.
 - The Instinct Cradle can have no sharp edges or be made of any type of hazardous material which would pose a danger to dogs if the dog nips, grips, or paws at the cradle.

- 4) **Tubes.** Made to specifications in *Appendix C: Rat Tube Construction*.

SECTION 7. Event officials.

In addition to at least one judge every Barn Hunt Fun Test and Trial shall have the following event officials.

- 1) **Event Committee:** Four to five people who will serve as overall facilitators, and also adjudicate over any incidents such as dog aggression, misconduct, poor sportsmanship, etc. At least three event committee members must be present on the trial grounds at all times during trial hours. Event committee members can serve simultaneously in other positions but cannot be a Judge of Record for that trial or event.
- 2) **Trial (or Test) Chair:** Arranges location, obtains Judges of Record and Back Up Judges (if any), oversees the event and is the chief official in charge of the trial. Applies for the Trial/Test with the BHA, LLC in accordance to the rules. A Trial/Test Chair may also serve as a Trial/Test Secretary at the same trial/event. A Trial/Test Chair who is also a Licensed Judge cannot serve as a Judge of Record at any Fun Test or Trial in which they are also serving as Trial/Test Chair and/or Secretary. A Trial/Test Chair who is also a Licensed Judge may act as a Back Up Judge at a Fun Test or Trial in which they are also serving as Trial Chair and/or Secretary.
- 3) **Trial (or Test) Secretary:** Creates and publishes a Premium, accepts entries, sends out confirmations, gives out armband numbers and sets run orders. Records all runs and records passing and failing efforts. Provides information on qualifiers and placements to the Award Chair for ribbons and awards. Submits Secretary Show Summary Report and all other required paperwork to the BHA, LLC within five business days of the trial. Submits proper payment to the BHA, LLC for all runs within five business days of the trial. A Trial/Test Secretary may also serve as a Trial/Test Chair at the same trial/event. A Trial/Test Secretary who is also a Licensed Judge cannot serve as a judge of record at any Fun Test or Trial in which they are also serving as Trial/Test Secretary and/or Chair. A Trial/Test Secretary who is also a Licensed Judge may act as a Back Up Judge at a Fun Test or Trial in which they are also responsible for serving as Trial Secretary and/or Chair. (*See Secretary's Handbook*)
- 4) **Gate Steward:** responsible for getting dogs to the ring in a timely fashion. May assist the Trial Secretary in setting the run order. The Gate Steward and Staging Steward position can be combined. The Gate Steward can also be a leash Runner.
- 5) **Staging Steward:** Assists Gate Steward by getting competitors to the blinded staging area and from the blinded staging area to the gate. The Gate Steward and Staging Steward positions can be combined.
- 6) **Course Builder(s):** Responsible for building and maintaining the course to the design specified by the judge. Course builders also make sure the ring is secure and safe for competitors and dogs. A minimum of three Course Builders should be available for each ring.
- 7) **Rat Wrangler(s):** Responsible for rats and PVC tubes and able to ensure humane treatment and placement and removal of same. There is a Chief Rat Wrangler who coordinates all other Rat Wranglers through the trial. There is a minimum of one and a maximum of two Inside Rat Wranglers and a minimum of one Outside Rat Wrangler. There can be as many Outside Rat Wranglers as the club deems necessary. The number of inside Rat Wranglers must be consistent through a class level (i.e., either one or two inside RW for all Novice dogs, but not one RW for a portion of Novice and two RW for another portion of Novice). Chief and Inside Rat Wranglers must be able to make knowledgeable decisions on when rats should be rested and traded out, consulting with the judge and/or the rat owner as necessary. (*See The Rat Wrangler in Barn Hunt.*)
 - The Chief Rat Wrangler can also serve as an Inside or Outside Rat Wrangler
 - The Inside Rat Wrangler(s) must be physically agile and able to move quickly and efficiently from a stationary position to where the tube(s) are located to remove the tubes as specified in the rules. The inside Rat Wrangler(s) work(s) directly with the judge to place and replace tubes. While serving as inside Rat Wrangler, the Rat Wrangler cannot serve in any other task/position except that they may take the leash from the handler and hand it to the leash runner. The inside Rat Wrangler must be at least 16 years of age.
 - The Outside Rat Wranglers(s) must be able to move quickly and efficiently to meet the Inside Rat Wrangler at the side of the ring, to safely lift rats out of the ring and transport them to a pre-designated safe holding area not less than 5 feet from the ring and invisible to the working dog. While this position can be combined with the position of leash runner, Rat Wrangling always takes priority. The outside Rat Wrangler

gler may also assist in replacing rats during location changes. The outside Rat Wrangler must be at least 10 years of age. It is permissible for the Inside Rat Wrangler to hand the rat tube to any willing participant outside the ring if the Outside Rat Wrangler is not immediately available, at which time the Outside Rat Wrangler should take the rat tube as soon as possible and move it to the safe location.

- 8) **Leash Runner:** Makes sure gate is secure, accepts leash and collar from handler or inside Rat Wrangler and places it near the exit. May also assist as sheet runner or Outside Rat Wrangler. The leash runner is stationed outside the ring.
- 9) **Scribe:** Checks to make sure the correct dog is matched with the correct scoresheet as dogs enter the ring. Informs judge when last dog of each blind enters the ring. Records information on the score sheet as the judge calls/signals the completion of individual elements by the team, checking off Tunnel, Climb, Rat (1, 2, etc.).
 - The scribe only marks what the judge calls and never makes marks on the sheet of his/her own volition (i.e., if the scribe sees a dog tunnel but the judge does not call/signal tunnel, the scribe does not record that the tunnel element is complete.) May record time as shown by the judge's stopwatch. The judge circles pass or fail on the sheet.
 - The scribe is stationed outside the ring and may either stand or sit in a high chair.
 - The scribe may also serve as a supplementary gate steward but not as leash runner, Outside Rat Wrangler, staging steward or sheet runner.
- 10) **Sheet Runner:** Takes score sheet(s) from the scribe to the trial secretary to be recorded.

SECTION 8. Premium List.

A premium list must be provided for Barn Hunt trials and Fun Tests. The premium list may be printed or available electronically, or both.

- 1) The following information must be included in the premium list:
 - Name of club holding the event
 - The exact event location (name of facility, address, city, state and zip code)
 - Definition of the area(s) included in club grounds if held in conjunction with other events.
 - Date(s) of the event
 - Name, address, telephone number and email of the Trial Chair
 - Names of the Event Committee members
 - Trial/Test Start time
 - Entry fees
 - Classes offered
 - Whether move-ups are allowed, and if so if they are allowed trial to trial or day to day.
 - Information on the maximum number of different dogs allowed to enter per envelope (a maximum of 10 dog entries per envelope)
 - Name judge number, and city/state for each Judge of Record
 - Name, address, telephone number and email of the Trial Secretary
 - Entry Limit (a maximum of 120 runs per judge is allowed)
 - Closing date for pre-entries (Opening date optional)
 - Whether Day of Show (DOS) entries are allowed and, if so, the DOS entry fee amount and the time-frame in which DOS entries will be accepted (i.e., Day of Show entries accepted from 7 am to 8 am)

- An entry form (see below)
- Bitch In Season (BIS) policy
- A liability waiver
- Special Awards and High in Class ribbons, if offered
- For trials held between April 1 and June 1, 2014, whether the trial will be using 2013 or 2014 rules.
- Refund policy (clubs may set a policy to refund in case of injury or for other reasons but are not required to give refunds. The refund policy must be in the Premium. If no refunds are offered that information must also be in the premium)

SECTION 9. Day of Show (DOS) Entries.

DOS entries are first-come, first-served during the published time frame for acceptance, and can only be taken up to the total limit of entries for the trial. Any Day of Show entries which exceed the total number of entries published for the trial must be rejected. Clubs are not required to offer DOS entries. All dogs must have Barn Hunt Registration numbers to enter Day of Show at a Barn Hunt Trial. Barn Hunt numbers can be instantly assigned by registering at www.barnhunt.com.

SECTION 10. Wait Lists.

Clubs which fill all available entries before their closing date may choose to maintain a before and/or after closing waiting list. If maintaining a Wait List:

- 1) Envelopes received after the trial limit has been met should be kept in the order in which they were received
- 2) A maximum of 10 dog entries are allowed per envelope.
- 3) All dogs in one envelope must be processed/entered before going to the next envelope.
 - If all dogs in one envelope cannot be entered into the trial due to limits being reached, the trial secretary must attempt to contact the affected owner(s) through email and/or phone and ask if a partial entry is accepted. A deadline for reply must be included. Competitors who do not respond to the contact attempt within the deadline period are entered with a partial entry into the trial.
- 4) An After Closing Wait list may be maintained. If a person who has entered into the trial prior to closing wishes to withdraw from the trial after closing, they may do so with no penalty if an after closing wait list has been established and there are waiting entries which can be used to fill their spot.
 - If a person withdraws after closing, the club maintains an After Closing Wait List, and someone else is able to fill their spot, the club must return all of their entry fee
 - If a person withdraws after closing and no one is on a wait list to fill their spot or the club does not offer an After Closing Wait List, their entry is not eligible for refund unless their withdrawal is covered by the published refund policy of the club.

SECTION 11. Random Draws.

Clubs who regularly fill trials quickly may choose to offer a Random Draw entry system. Trials choosing Random Draw may also maintain Wait Lists. If choosing a Random Draw entry system:

- 1) An Opening date is mandated for the trial
- 2) A Random Draw date is mandated for the trial
 - The Random Draw date must be at least two weeks after the opening date and at least two weeks prior to the closing date.
- 3) Entries received for a Random Draw trial must be kept in random order, not in order in which they were received.
- 4) A maximum of 10 dog entries are allowed per envelope.

- 5) On the date of the Random Draw, the Secretary and at least one other Trial Committee member must be present. Envelopes are picked/drawn in random order.
- 6) All dogs in one envelope must be processed/entered before going on to the next envelope.
 - If all dogs in one envelope cannot be entered into the trial due to limits being reached, the trial secretary must attempt to contact the owner through email and/or phone and ask if a partial entry is accepted. A deadline for reply must be included. Competitors who do not respond to the contact attempt within the deadline period are entered with a partial entry into the trial.

SECTION 12. Invalid and Conditional Entries.

Entry forms must be submitted with correct information and accompanied by valid payment.

- 1) Barn Hunt Trial entry forms submitted without a correct Barn Hunt Registration number are not considered valid entries.
 - All qualifying scores earned at a trial entered with an incorrect BH number will be voided. Barn Hunt numbers always consist of the letters BH- followed by a sequence of 5 digits; i.e., BH-00001. Individuals may access their Barn Hunt number at www.barnhunt.com under "Manage Your Dog."
 - Competitors are responsible for carefully checking their trial confirmations and bringing errors to the attention of the trial secretary.
- 2) Barn Hunt Numbers entered on trial entry forms which are illegible by the Trial Secretary are considered invalid. The Trial Secretary may contact the owner for clarification but is not required to do so.
- 3) A returned check does not constitute a valid entry into any Barn Hunt Trial or Fun Test.
- 4) No entry into any Barn Hunt Trial or Fun Test can be conditional. A conditional entry is one in which the competitor attaches conditions to the entry, such as requesting the club wait a certain amount of time to cash a check, indicating that payment will follow, indicating they will only enter if a friend's dog also is entered, etc.

SECTION 13. Withdrawals and Refunds

- 1) Competitors who withdraw any or all entries from a Fun Test, trial or trials prior to the closing date must receive a refund of all entry fees, minus any non-refundable credit card/PayPal transaction fees if applicable. "Courtesy fees" may not be assessed for entry fees withdrawn prior to closing.
- 2) Competitors who withdraw any or all entries from a Fun Test, trial or trials after closing date should only receive a refund if the club is accepting late and/or day of show entries and a new entry replaces the withdrawn entry. Clubs may not collect two entry fees for the same run or runs (i.e., not refund a withdrawn entry but also accept a replacement entry for the same slot).

SECTION 14. Assumption of Risk.

All persons attending and/or entering a Barn Hunt Association LLC Trial or Fun Test in any capacity do so at their own risk and agree to assume responsibility for damage caused by them, or by their dogs and hold the trial club and Barn Hunt Association harmless for any injury sustained by their dog or by a dog or person during the trial. By entering a trial, owners attest that they have read, understand, and will abide by, all Barn Hunt Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 15. Cancellation of Events.

Every attempt should be made to hold a Barn Hunt Association, LLC event as scheduled. In the event of an "Act of God" such as fire, flood, severe weather etc. an event may be canceled. The club must make every attempt to contact entrants and inform them of the cancellation. In such a case, the club is not obligated to return any or all of entry fees collected, but may do so at their own discretion. Trial/Fun Test application fees to the BHA are non-refundable.

SECTION 16. Ribbons.

Ribbons are awarded to all dogs with qualifying scores at Barn Hunt Trials. Ribbons must be imprinted on the front side with the BHA logo and the club/organization name. The date of the event and any information such as dog name, class, qualifying time, etc. must be attached to the ribbon. A label affixed to the back of the ribbon is satisfactory.

- 1) **Qualifying ribbons** are awarded for each qualifying score in all classes at Barn Hunt Trials. Qualifying ribbons are flat and dark brown with bronze or gold metallic type and logos.
- 2) **Placement ribbons** are awarded to first through fourth place in each of the three height divisions for Novice, Open, Senior, and Master classes at Barn Hunt Trials. It is recommended but not required that clubs use Rosettes for at least first place, and if possible for all placement ribbons. Barn Hunt Instinct (RATI) does not have placements, so placement ribbons are not awarded for that class. RATI qualifiers get qualifying ribbons only.
 - First Place Ribbon: Blue
 - Second Place Ribbon: Red
 - Third Place Ribbon: Yellow
 - Fourth Place Ribbon: White
- 3) **High in Class ribbons** may be awarded at Barn Hunt Trials. Each ribbon shall be imprinted with the specific award or, optionally, a single rosette type may be offered with a flag or tag that can be stapled to it with the appropriate title designation:
 - High Novice: This shall be awarded to the fastest dog out of all heights in the RATN class
 - High Open: This shall be awarded to the fastest dog out of all heights in the RATO class
 - High Senior: This shall be awarded to the fastest dog out of all heights in the RATS class
 - High Master: This shall be awarded to the fastest dog out of all heights in the RATM class
- 4) **New Title/Championship ribbons** may be awarded to any team attaining a new title and/or RATCH
- 5) **Other ribbons/prizes** may be awarded at the discretion of the club such as High <breed> in Novice, Oldest Dog, Judges Choice, etc. All special ribbons/prizes must be listed in the Premium.
- 6) **Fun Test placement ribbons** may be awarded at Barn Hunt Fun Tests. If placement ribbons are offered at Fun Tests, they must be clearly imprinted with the words "Fun Test" in all capital letters. Regular placement ribbons used for Licensed Trials can not be used for Fun Tests. Qualifying ribbons are not offered at Fun Tests.

Part 4: General Rules

SECTION 1. Dogs Eligible to Compete.

Any dog of any breed or mix, six months of age or older, with a valid Barn Hunt Registration number, can participate in Barn Hunt events. The dog must be able to fit through an 18" wide by approximately 20" to 22" high "tunnel" made of straw/hay bales. Altered dogs can compete. Intact dogs can compete.

- 1) Bitches in season (BIS) are eligible to compete. BIS will run at the end of each level/class regardless of height.
 - BIS must compete in panties specifically designed for the purpose of preventing/containing seasonal discharges.
 - BIS must be crated separately from other dogs in an isolated area. A "Bitch In Season" sign must be affixed to the crate or displayed close by the crating area.
 - Owners of BIS must inform the trial chair of their status as soon as possible; prior to the event if known, or the morning of the trial if the BIS comes into season that day, so that run orders can be adjusted.
 - Failure to inform the trial committee of a BIS is grounds for dismissal from the trial.
 - BIS must wear pants at all times when out of their crates except when being pottied.
 - BIS must be pottied separately from the other dogs at the trial.

- BIS must be staged separately from other dogs unless the owners of all the dogs in the stage the BIS would be included in agree to allow the BIS to stage with them (i.e., all other dogs are altered and not likely to be affected)
 - If a BHA trial is held in conjunction with another organization/venue's event, if the other venue dictates that no BIS are allowed, an special exemption will be considered by the BHA LLC for that one event. The trial-giving club must request that exemption by email to barnhuntassoc@gmail.com. The exemption is to be posted in the premium. Except in those specific cases, all clubs must allow bitches in season to compete as set forth in these rules.
- 2) Deaf dogs are eligible to compete.
 - 3) Dogs with limited or partial vision are eligible to compete. That includes dogs missing one eye and dogs blind in one eye as well as dogs with partial vision in one or both eyes.
 - 4) Dogs missing a limb are not automatically to be considered lame and are eligible to compete as long as they can negotiate the course safely and without showing signs of pain. The Judge(s) of Record for the trial will determine the dog's ability to safely navigate the course.

SECTION 2. Dogs Ineligible to Compete.

- 1) Dogs without a Barn Hunt registration number are ineligible to compete in a Barn Hunt Trial.
 - The dog's correct Barn Hunt Registration number must be included on the entry form at the time of entry to be considered valid. (*See Secretary's Handbook*)
 - Dogs without a Barn Hunt registration number may compete in a Barn Hunt Fun Test.
- 2) Dogs under six months of age on the date of the trial/test are ineligible to compete.
- 3) Blind dogs are ineligible to compete. Blindness means without useful vision.
- 4) Dogs with visible stitches or bandages, protective items or other attachments may not compete. A single band or small barrette may be used to tie a dog's hair out of his/her eyes.
- 5) Dogs in wheeled carts are ineligible to compete.
- 6) Lame dogs are ineligible to compete.
 - The judge must dismiss from the ring a lame dog, or any dog the judge considers unable to safely complete the course due to a physical issue.

SECTION 3. Dog Aggression.

- 1) Dog aggression results in a Disqualification (DQ) and dismissal from trial grounds.
- 2) Dog Aggression is an overt threat from a dog against another dog or a person and/or an attack with contact against another dog or a person with the intent to harm.
 - Overt threat is the judgment that if a person or dog was not very quickly removed from the immediate vicinity a bite or attack would certainly have taken place.
- 3) Injury does not have to occur for a dog to be deemed aggressive.
- 4) Dogs who rumble (a quiet growl) or posture are not necessarily deemed aggressive.
- 5) Dogs jumping on or bumping into a judge or rat wrangler with no mouth contact or intent to harm are not deemed aggressive.
- 6) Dogs responding defensively to another dog's aggressive action are not deemed aggressive.
- 7) A dog leaping up and nipping the handler, judge, or Rat Wrangler as the tube is removed (prey drive nip) receives a non-qualifying (NQ) score and is dismissed from the course but is not considered aggressive or overtly threatening. Nipping is defined as teeth coming in contact with and closing on skin or clothing.
- 8) Dogs gripping (grabbing and not letting go with mouth/teeth) other dogs or people are deemed aggressive.
- 9) All dog sizes, breeds and types are to be judged equally in terms of dog aggression. Breeds or breed types are not to be considered in any decision on dog aggression.
- 10) Sparring or other intentional pitting of one dog against another is not allowed on trial grounds.

- 11) All dogs must be able to work in a ring with the judge, owner, and one or more rat wranglers.
- 12) Judge and/or Trial Committee decisions on dog aggression are considered final for that event. A written report on any and all incidents is to be included in the trial report.
 - The Trial Committee as a whole must meet and collect testimony and data on the event. Witnesses may be called and information must be collected and recorded from both the accused and the victim. Any trial committee member who is the owner/handler of one of the dogs charged in the incident cannot act as a committee member for the purpose of voting on whether a person is to be dismissed from the trial.
 - The committee must take and record a vote of yea or nay for dismissal on the grounds of dog aggression and provide the record of that vote, along with any substantiating evidence, to the Barn Hunt LLC.
 - Once dismissed for aggression, a dog is not allowed to compete in any future events. The BHA office will make a final decision on the dog's ability to compete in the future.
- 13) Dogs who are dismissed due to dog aggression are required to leave the trial grounds immediately and are not allowed to return to any trial grounds at any Barn Hunt Trial or Barn Hunt Fun Test without express written permission of the BHA office.

SECTION 4. Misconduct/Lack of Sportsmanship.

All competitors, club members, judges, and spectators in Barn Hunt are expected to act within the Code of Good Sportsmanship (*Part 1: Section 3*) outlined in these rules. Loud arguments, fighting, cheating, or disrespect toward spectators, competitors, judges, club members, or trial committee members, may be grounds for dismissal from a Barn Hunt Trial.

- 1) Judge and/or Trial Committee decisions on misconduct are considered final for that event. A written report on any and all incidents is to be included in the trial report.
 - The Trial Committee as a whole must meet and collect testimony and data on the event. Witnesses may be called and information must be collected and recorded from both the accused and the victim. Any trial committee member who is one of the persons charged in the incident cannot act as a committee member or vote on whether a person is to be dismissed from the trial.
 - The committee must take and record a vote of yea or nay for dismissal on grounds of misconduct/lack of sportsmanship and provide the record of that vote, along with substantiating evidence, to the Barn Hunt LLC.
 - Once dismissed due to misconduct/lack of sportsmanship the person and any/all dogs owned or co-owned by the person so dismissed are not allowed to attend, compete (judge/serve on committees) at any future events. The BHA office will make a final decision on the person's ability to return to Barn Hunt.
- 2) Persons who are dismissed due to misconduct/lack of sportsmanship are required to leave the trial grounds immediately and are not allowed to return to any trial grounds at any Barn Hunt Trial or Barn Hunt Fun Test without express written permission of the BHA office.

SECTION 5. Double Handling

Double handling or aiding the competitor inside the ring from outside the ring includes telling the judge "Climb" or "Tunnel" when the judge has not so indicated, talking about rat locations, or even something as innocuous as dramatically increasing the number of audible camera clicks as a team nears a live rat hide or making sure a camera is always near the live rat hide.

- 1) The judge and/or Rat Wrangler(s) should not verbally discuss rat locations when hiding or re-hiding tubes.
- 2) Most incidences of double handling are accidental/inadvertent.
 - If the judge feels the inadvertent double handling aided the handler and/or dog in the ring, the minimum penalty for the person who initiated the cue which aided the team is an NQ for their next run. The judge may choose to re-run the team in the ring.
 - If the judge feels the inadvertent double handling did not aid the handler and/or dog in the ring, a verbal warning is sufficient for the first offense. Repeated inadvertent offenses may result in an NQ for the person who has initiated the cue.

- 3) If a judge witnesses deliberate double handling, or if a charge of deliberate double handling is brought to the judge, the judge and the Trial Committee as a whole must meet and collect testimony and data on the event. Witnesses may be called. Any trial committee member who is one of the persons charged in the incident cannot act as a committee member or vote on whether a person is to be dismissed from the trial.
 - The committee must take and record a vote of yea or nay for dismissal on grounds of deliberate double handling and provide that vote, along with substantiating evidence, to the Barn Hunt LLC.
 - Once dismissed for deliberate double handling, the person and any/all dogs owned or co-owned by the person so dismissed are not allowed to attend, compete (judge/serve on committees) at any future events. The BHA office will make a final decision on the person's ability to return to Barn Hunt.
- 4) Persons who are dismissed due to deliberate double handling are required to leave the trial grounds immediately and are not allowed to return to any trial grounds at any Barn Hunt Trial or Barn Hunt Fun Test without express written permission of the BHA office.

SECTION 6. Loud/Disruptive dogs.

Dogs that are loud and disruptive may be asked to locate away from the rings/crating area and/or staged away from the other dogs getting ready to compete.

SECTION 7. Judge decisions.

If a competitor has a question about a call or action of the Judge of Record, the competitor may politely address the question to the judge. However, all judge decisions at a trial are considered final. If the competitor feels the situation is not resolved, the competitor may contact the Barn Hunt office at barnhuntassoc@gmail.com with a written explanation of the incident. The Barn Hunt office will investigate. Results of that investigation may or may not be reported to the competitor.

SECTION 8. Collars and Leashes.

- 1) Electronic collars are not allowed to be used on trial grounds.
- 2) Bark collars, including citronella bark collars, are not allowed to be used on trial grounds.
- 3) Head halters are not allowed to be used on trial grounds.
- 4) All other collar, lead, and harness types and combination are allowed to be used on trial grounds unless specifically prohibited by the show-giving club.
- 5) At no time can dogs be tied out or otherwise left attached to anything other than a human when outside a crate, car, or other secure enclosed confinement. Leashes cannot be left dangling or dragging. Standing or stepping on a leash is not allowed as a form of restraint (but may be used in an emergency to help secure a loose dog.) Accommodations to this rule may be made for differently abled handlers as determined by the club.
- 6) Dogs cannot be brought to the ring on flexi-leads or prong collars. Dogs should be brought into the ring with collars/harnesses/slipleads which can be easily and quickly removed and replaced.
- 7) Dogs must run "naked," without a collar/harness.

SECTION 9. Height Divisions.

Height divisions are to equalize efforts for dogs of the same general size.

- Small: Dogs 13" and under
- Medium: Dogs 13.1 to 18"
- Large: Dogs over 18"

SECTION 10. Measuring dogs.

It is the responsibility of the person registering the dog and entering the trial to correctly measure their dog and enter the correct height. Judges will measure any dog(s) they feel may be in the incorrect height. Competitors may also request that a dog be measured; either their own dog or any other dog entered in the trial. The club must provide a wicket for use by the judge. The wicket may be an agility wicket, a conformation-ring wicket, or a home made wicket. A raised, level surface such as an agility table is preferred for measurements. In the absence of an agility table, the club should use a hard, flat, level surface. Dogs are measured at the discretion of the judge.

- 1) The measurement is from the highest point of the wither to the ground. The wicket should not rest on the back of the neck, nor should it rest on the back behind the shoulder.
- 2) If a dog measures out of a height division, the dog may be moved to the correct height division at that trial at the discretion of the trial secretary. Trial secretaries/clubs are not required to move dogs into a different height division. If the secretary/club does not allow the dog to move that dog is ineligible for competition at that show.

Part 5: Rat Care and Safety

SECTION 1. General Considerations.

Rat care and safety is critical to the success of Barn Hunt. A knowledgeable handler/rat wrangler is required at all events to monitor the health and safety of rats. (*See Appendix C for Rat Tube construction specifications*).

- 1) Domestic rats or domestic rat crosses are the only acceptable animal for use in Barn Hunt
 - In municipalities where rats are illegal, contact the Barn Hunt office for alternatives.
- 2) All rats must be weaned and of an age of 8 weeks or older
- 3) Rats must be small enough to be able to turn around in the tube

SECTION 2. Tubes and Safe Rat Enclosures

- 1) All rats must be secured in Rat Tubes or safely and comfortably caged in a quiet location away from the dogs at all times
 - At no time can rats be carried loose anywhere on trial grounds during trial hours except when transferring rats from a tube to their safe enclosure
 - The safe enclosure must be away from dog and human traffic with a physical barrier to prevent casual access. Only authorized personnel are allowed in the safe enclosure. Handlers with dogs are not allowed to approach the safe enclosure.
- 2) Rats must always have litter in their tube to help with sanitation and comfort. The litter in the tube must be the same type of litter in which the rats are regularly housed, and the same type which is used in the litter-only tubes. Dry to semi-moist food treats suitable for rats or fruit may be added to the tube in moderation and must be of a size large enough to not fall through the ventilation holes of the tube. Litter must be checked and replaced if necessary if it becomes too wet.
- 3) Only one rat is to be placed in a tube at a time.

SECTION 3. Duration and type of work

- 1) Rats cannot be worked continuously through an entire day. They must be traded out as necessary to their safe enclosure for breaks and water. The timing of when rats are traded out depends on weather, conditions, and circumstances of how the rat tube is worked.
 - Rats do not have to be traded out every five dogs unless conditions dictate
- 2) Handlers may not allow their dogs to excessively kick, pull, shake, or bite at tubes, whether live, litter, or empty. Judges may intervene at any time if they feel a rat is in danger due to rough handling (see *Stalling and Lack of Control, Part 10: Section 5*.) Handlers should discourage dogs from carrying tubes.
- 3) Clubs/organizations must ensure an adequate number of rats on site for all rats to be able to be rested and not overworked.
- 4) Rats are never to be harmed or killed at the end of a trial or event.
- 5) In the case of any rat suffering damage, injury, or death at a Barn Hunt trial, the circumstances and details of the incident must be reported in writing on the Secretary Show Report. Clubs with multiple incidences of rat injury/death will have their ability to hold trials revoked.

Part 6: Course Design Parameters for All Class Levels

SECTION 1. Course Construction.

All courses are to be designed according to the specifications for each class level.

- 1) All parts of each course must be accessible by the handler without the handler having to climb or jump over bales or bridges.
 - The area from the entrance gate to the start box must be handicapped accessible.
 - Pathways between bales must be at least 12" wide.
- 2) The course is identical for all dog heights within each class level, and must be designed with all dog heights in mind.
 - The course may be altered if necessary in order for handicapped individuals located in the start box or the path to the start box to be able to view their dog working the course and see the dog indicate.

SECTION 2. The Start Box.

The start box is a 4' x 4' square area inside the enclosed ring area from which all teams will release their dog. The start box must either consist of four orange cones, other easily moved markers placed on the ground at each corner, or chalk or tape on the floor.

- 1) Nothing can be placed on the ground to mark the start box which would present a tripping hazard if the owner exited the side of the box.
- 2) Teams must be able to exit at least 3 sides of the box without encountering a bale.
- 3) Teams which dislodge a corner marker/cone are not to be penalized.
- 4) ***Teams may not leave the start box until directed to do so by the judge.***

SECTION 3. Official Tunnels.

Official tunnels are 18" wide by the height of the sidewall bales used in their construction, set on their taller horizontal sides.

- 1) All courses include at least one Official Tunnel. Tunnels which meet the standards for the Official Tunnel for the class level are automatically deemed Official Tunnels.
- 2) Tunnels must be covered. Tunnel roofs can consist of hay bales, or boards partially or wholly covered by hay bales (see ***Judge Guidelines Part 4: Section 2***).
- 3) Tunnel length and turns vary by class level.
- 4) At least one Official Tunnel must be at ground level.

SECTION 4. Ramps.

Ramps are available to help dogs access different levels of the course.

- 1) A ramp can be constructed as specified in ***Part 3: Section 6. Course Materials and Equipment*** or can consist of straw bales set at an angle. A mixture of both types can be used (see ***Judge Guidelines Part 4: Section 2***).
- 2) A minimum of one ramp must be used on each course.
- 3) Ramps are not required at every single location where there is more than one level.
- 4) Dogs are not required to ascend ramps.

SECTION 5. Bridges.

Bridges are an optional tool for judges to add variety to a course. Bridges are ramps or boards spanning an open space in such a way that the dog could walk from one bale to another across the bridge.

- 1) Bridges must have bolt anchors in the bales on both sides and be stable.

- 2) Bridges must be as close to possible to horizontal and cannot go from one level of straw to a higher or lower level of straw.
- 3) Bridges must be fully visible and not covered with straw.
- 4) Bridges cannot block a portion of the course in such a way that a handler would have to circle around a majority of the course or step over the bridge to access the area on the other side of the bridge.
- 5) Dogs are never required to negotiate a bridge.

SECTION 6. Rat Tube locations.

Rat tube construction specifications are outlined in *Appendix C*.

- 1) With the following exceptions, any tube (live, litter, and/or empty) may be hidden anywhere within the ring enclosure. The possible locations of live tubes varies by class level. The entire ring enclosure is considered searchable with the following exceptions.
 - All tubes must be hidden at least 24" from any open side or corner of the start box.
 - No tube may be hidden so deep in any official or incidental tunnel that the handler can not observe his/her dog's indication of a live find.
 - The drain/grate end of any tube cannot be hidden deeper than 10" from the outside surface of a bale, bridge, or ramp.
 - Tubes cannot be hidden in such a way that an entire bale would have to be lifted off the tube to remove the tube or wedged so tightly into a gap that the handler or rat wrangler would struggle to remove the tube.
 - Tubes cannot be hidden in such a way that if the dog pushes at the tube it could drop down the vertical distance of more than one bale or into a tunnel.
- 2) The locations of all tubes will be switched every 5 dogs and can be re-hidden anywhere throughout the course enclosure where it is legal to place them (they will not be rotated between 3 locations for example).
 - In some rotations the live tube may be in a more accessible place than in others. That is the "luck of the draw."
 - In Master, the number of live tubes will be switched between each dog.
- 3) Tubes must be camouflage painted and all tubes used for a class/level must be painted in the same color scheme so as to be indistinguishable from each other.
- 4) Tubes must be loosely covered with straw in such a way that they cannot be seen by handler or dog. Tubes may not be so heavily covered as to cut off air to the rat or hinder the ability of the dog to scent through the hay/straw.
 - Straw may not be packed tightly against the grate end of the tube.
 - Tubes must be checked and re-covered if necessary after each dog.
- 5) Tubes must be placed horizontally if possible. If set at an angle, that angle must be less than 45 degrees. Tubes can never be placed vertically.

SECTION 7. Blinded Staging area.

Handlers must stage in blinded area (unable to see the ring) in **groups of five for Instinct, Novice, Open, and Senior, and groups of 3, 4, or 5 for Master (see Master guidelines)** and wait for a signal to proceed to the ring. Every effort should be made to keep dogs calm and quiet in the staging area so as not to be disruptive to other dogs. Failure to proceed immediately to the start line when called may result in being skipped in the order and/or up to an NQ if the delay is pronounced. There must be at least one staging area per ring.

- 1) Cell phones and other electronic communication devices are prohibited in the staging area.

Part 7: Performance Guidelines for All Levels

SECTION 1. Entering the ring and Releasing the dog.

Handlers must bring their dog into the enclosed course area on an approved collar/harness and lead which can be quickly removed and replaced. Dogs must run “naked,” without collar/leash/harness.

- 1) Dogs may be carried into the ring if they are of a size to be comfortably carried.
- 2) The collar/leash may be removed at any time after the dog has entered the course and the gate has been secured. The collar/leash can be handed to either the Rat Wrangler or outside leash runner before or immediately after the team has been released from the start box. Alternately, the lead may be folded in a pocket so that it is not visible. The collar/leash can not be carried in a hand. The collar/leash cannot be handed to the judge. The collar/leash should not be thrown or dropped on the ground.
- 3) All dogs in each class will be released from the start box (see **Part 6: Section 2**). Handlers may not lead out to get an advantage; handler and dog should leave the start box at approximately the same time.
- 4) Handlers must wait for the judge to verbally release them into the course before releasing their dog. If a team leaves the box before being verbally released it is a false start. The judge will make the choice to either call the team back to the start box or allow the team to continue. The team will be assessed a 20 second penalty, to be added to the team’s overall time at the end of the run.
- 5) Handlers cannot “bowl” the dog by pushing/shoving/tugging the dog forward during the release.
- 6) Handlers cannot drop the dog during the release. At least two of the dog’s feet must be on the floor prior to release with the exception of wheelchair bound or other differently abled competitors who request and receive permission of the judge to use alternate release methods (i.e., from their lap).
- 7) If a very large dog does not fit completely inside the start box, the front end of the dog must be inside the start box.
- 8) Time starts when any part of the handler or dog exits the start box after the verbal release from the judge (in the case of a very large dog, when the front end of the dog or any part of the handler leaves the start box).

SECTION 2. General Course Rules.

Handlers can and should move around the course while the dog works to be able to view and call the mark of the correct live rat tube. Handlers can speak at will and verbally praise and encourage their dog.

- 1) Handlers may not bring food or toys into the ring.
- 2) Handlers may not self-time in the ring using a watch or any other timing device.
- 3) Handlers may not enter the ring with bait bags, pouches, or other attachments (including cameras).
- 4) Handlers may not deliberately touch, step on, or step over any bales, boards, ramps, bridges, or tubes, except as outlined in **Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward** and **Part 9: Safely Removing the Rat Tube**.
- 5) Handlers may not deliberately touch their dog at any time after the release from the start box and before the finish of the course except for during the **Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward** period after a live tube is correctly located.
 - Body blocking, pushing, or nudging the dog with hip, knee, leg, or foot, is considered deliberate touching
 - Once a handler has taken his/her hands off their dog after Allowed Praise and Reward, placing his/her hands back on the dog prior to finding another rat tube or completing the course will result in an NQ score.
- 6) Handlers may not berate, bully, intimidate, or otherwise verbally abuse their dog, the judge, or any person in or around the ring.
- 7) Handlers may not curse in the ring.
- 8) No grabbing, scruffing (grabbing/pulling the skin/hair on the dog’s body), shaking, or pulling or holding the dog by the tail is allowed.
- 9) Handlers may not use obedience commands (i.e., sit, down, stay) to position their dog in order to move to another portion of the course such as the other side of the tunnel to call the dog to them.

- Handlers may use a command such as “Wait” or “Stay” for safety reasons in order to keep a dog from launching off a high bale, and may use an obedience command to position the dog in the start box prior to release.
- 10) Handlers may encourage the dog to search certain areas, climb and/or tunnel through voice and/or hand gestures.
 - 11) Picking up/carrying may not be used as a punishment/corrective action or if carrying will be physically uncomfortable for the dog (i.e., attempting to carry a larger dog). Carrying should be done in such a way as to be physically comfortable to the dog. Flipping the dog onto its back to remove it from the course is considered a corrective action and will result in an NQ.
 - Dogs may not be picked up or carried to remove them from a rat tube or lift them down from high places.
 - 12) Spectators can cheer the handler/dog but cannot double-handle. See **Part 4: General Rules: Section 5**.
 - 13) Teams who do not successfully find a live rat tube within course time, who indicate an incorrect tube, or who find one or more live rat tubes but do not find the next or final rat tube, are to be taken to the next/final tube and praised as outlined in **Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward** before exiting the course.
 - 14) Handlers may request to be excused from the course and accept an NQ score (i.e., dog has stopped working, is stressed, or is out of control)
 - 15) Elimination on the course is an NQ (non-qualifying) score for the dog, and the dog must be immediately removed from the course and is not allowed to continue. Elimination includes urination, defecation, and/or spitting up/throwing up. Belly bands are not allowed. If a Bitch in Season squats in the ring with the clear motion of peeing, she is to be removed and will receive an NQ score even if the urine does not escape her pants.

SECTION 3. Tunneling.

The Tunnel effort is completed when the dog enters one end of any Official Tunnel and exits the other end of that tunnel with its entire body, excepting the tail.

- 1) A dog who enters the tunnel then turns around and comes back out the entrance side has not completed the tunnel.
- 2) The dog may enter the tunnel from either end, and if there is more than one Official Tunnel on the course, successful completion of any one Official Tunnel counts as the tunneling effort.

SECTION 4. Climbing.

The climb is completed when the dog impacts the top of any bale with all four feet.

- 1) Putting only front feet or back feet on the bale does not constitute a climb.
- 2) Putting one or more feet on a board/construction ramp, or climbing a board ramp but only putting one, two, or three feet on a bale before descending the ramp does not constitute a climb.
- 3) Jumping a bale without touching the bale or with only incidental touching of the bale such as a brush with a hind foot does not constitute a climb.
- 4) If a large dog climbs up with front feet and follows with rear feet while one or more front feet come back off to go back to the ground (walking over a bale) that is acceptable as a climbing effort.
- 5) Climbing only one bale high is acceptable at all class levels.

SECTION 5. Marking the Find of the Rat.

How the dog marks the find of the correct rat tube is only relevant to the handler. ***The handler calls the find of the rat clearly and unequivocally and the judge notes that call.***

- 1) The judge may request a specific type of call of the find (“alert” or “rat” for example), but if the handler forgets the judge’s specific request in the heat of the moment, there is no penalty as long as the call is clear and unequivocal.
- 2) Calls must be declarative, not questioning. The handler may not ask the judge if the call is the correct one (i.e., “is this right?” or “rat?”). It is the handler’s responsibility to make the call in such a way that the judge hears and understands it without question.

- 3) If requested by the judge, the handler must be able to indicate the exact location of the correct live rat tube.
- 4) Dogs are not required to put their nose on a rat tube or be a specific minimum or maximum distance from the rat tube for the handler to call the find. It is only necessary for the dog to indicate the live rat tube to the handler in such a way that the handler understands where the live tube is, and for the handler to make the call and be capable of indicating the correct tube location to the judge.

SECTION 6. Exiting the Ring.

Dogs and handlers should exit the ring quickly and efficiently at the end of each run.

- 1) Dogs of a size to be comfortably carried may be picked up and carried out of the ring after the completion of the run.
- 2) The collar and leash must be attached to the dog prior to the exit gate being opened and the dog exiting the enclosure, even if the dog is being carried.
- 3) Once the run has concluded, no training is allowed in the ring such as asking or attempting to force a dog to climb or tunnel on the way out of the ring.

Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward:

SECTION 1. When Praise and Reward is Allowed

At all class levels in Barn Hunt, after the dog finds the correct rat tube, the handler may briefly praise and reward the dog.

- 1) The handler may *briefly* pet the dog, verbally praise the dog, point at and/or stabilize/touch the tube, move/wiggle the tube gently then either remove the tube or leave the tube in place. (See **Part 9: Safely Removing the Rat Tube**).
 - Praise and reward is allowed whenever a correct tube is indicated, regardless of whether any/all other elements of the course have been completed.
 - The dog may not be deliberately picked up or carried during Allowed Praise and Reward but can be touched and petted or restrained as outlined in **Part 9: Safely Removing the Rat Tube**. At least two of the dog's feet must remain in contact with the ground/surface while the handler is touching the dog.
- 2) Dogs who have been assessed a non-qualifying score for being over time or for the handler calling an incorrect tube should be immediately shown a correct live tube and praised as outlined in this section before exiting the course.
 - Teams assessed a non-qualifying score due to dog elimination on the course, dog aggression, or handler misconduct must leave the ring immediately and cannot show their dog a correct tube prior to leaving.
 - Dogs who have found all tubes but do not complete the tunnel and/or climb cannot be asked to tunnel and/or climb before leaving the course.
 - Allowed Praise and Reward is only for live rat tube indication. Teams are not allowed to otherwise train on the course by attempting to tunnel or climb during this period, nor can handlers push or bowl their dog toward a tunnel or bale after Allowed Praise and Reward.

Part 9: Safely Removing the Rat Tube(s)

At any class level, if a live rat tube is found before all elements of the course are completed (tunnel, climb, and/or other live rat tubes), after **Allowed Praise and Reward** the handler may choose either to leave the live tube in place, to remove the live tube, or ask the rat wrangler to remove the live tube. The handler may choose any of the three options for any of the live tubes on the course. I. e., the handler may redirect the dog for tube one, remove the tube for tube two, restrain the dog for Rat Wrangler removal for tube three, etc. or any other combination of redirection or removal.

- 1) The judge does not remove the rat tube.
- 2) If the handler knows in advance how he/she wishes to handle tube removal, that can be communicated as the handler enters the ring and before release.
 - If the handler announces one form of removal before the start then changes their mind at the time of the find, there is no penalty assessed.
- 3) If the live tube is found as the last element of the course, every effort should be made to leave the tube in place if possible.

SECTION 1. Handler redirects dog.

The handler may leave the tube in place and redirect the dog to other elements of the course through hand and/or voice gestures.

- 1) The handler can still touch/stabilize the tube and praise the dog as allowed in **Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward** prior to redirecting the dog, or the handler may redirect the dog without touching the tube and can still briefly touch the dog, or redirect the dog without touching.
- 2) Once the handler decides to redirect the dog without removing the live tube, the live tube is to remain in place even if the dog continues to return to the tube. The handler may not request that the judge remove the tube later for cause of distraction of the dog alone.
 - If the dog returns to the live tube after being redirected and works it hard and vigorously in such a way that the judge feels the rat is in danger, the judge will ask the handler to remove the tube or restrain the dog for the rat wrangler to remove the tube. At that time the handler will be assessed a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

SECTION 2. Handler removes the tube.

The handler may choose to remove the tube and hand it to the Rat Wrangler for removal from the course. The tube is never handed to the judge.

- 1) The handler can still touch/stabilize the tube and praise the dog as allowed in **Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward**.
- 2) The handler may stabilize the tube if needed.
- 3) The handler may not pick up the dog to remove the tube.
- 4) The handler must be able to safely remove the tube without flipping, tipping, or dropping the tube. The handler must control the dog. The dog must be physically or verbally restrained, have moved on, or otherwise be under the handler's control. Praise and restraint may be combined. (See **Section 3. The Rat Wrangler removes the tube** for restraint guidelines). The live tube must remain horizontal/level while being transitioned from the handler to the Rat Wrangler.
 - The Rat Wrangler will not take a tube if the dog is leaping up or otherwise interfering with the tube or Rat Wrangler.
- 5) If the rat tube is at a height where the handler must brace a hand and/or foot or climb on a bale to remove the rat, the handler may do so.
- 6) If the handler does not feel confident about being able to safely remove the tube, the handler must restrain the dog and ask the Rat Wrangler to remove the tube (See **Section 3. The Rat Wrangler removes the tube**).
- 7) Dogs nipping/biting the handler or rat wrangler during removal of the tube are NQ and immediately dismissed from the course, but are not necessarily to be disqualified due to Dog Aggression.

SECTION 3. The Rat Wrangler removes the tube.

If requested, the rat wrangler may remove the rat tube. Handlers should choose this option even with a compliant dog if they feel they could not brace a hand/foot and/or climb on a bale in order to reach a higher tube for safe removal.

- 1) The handler can still touch/stabilize the tube and praise the dog as allowed in **Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward** prior to asking the rat wrangler to remove the tube.

- 2) In order for the rat wrangler to remove any tube(s), the dog must be restrained at a minimum of two feet from the tube or whatever distance is required for the Rat Wrangler to have safe, unimpeded access to the tube.
 - The handler cannot deliberately pick up the dog, but may place one or both hands flat on the dog's chest and/or one or both arms loosely around the neck or torso with a hand or hands on the chest. At least two of the dog's feet must remain in contact with the ground/surface at all times while the handler is touching the dog.
 - The dog must remain restrained until the rat wrangler is safe.

Part 10: Scoring Guidelines

SECTION 1. Qualifying (Q) Scores.

A team receives a qualifying score/leg toward a Barn Hunt title at a Licensed Trial when all of the requirements of the entered level/course are completed within the set standard course time for that level/course without incurring any errors which would result in an NQ. Dogs do not have to earn a placement (first through fourth place) in any class in order to receive a qualifying score. Qualifying scores at Fun Tests do not count toward any Barn Hunt title.

- 1) Barn Hunt Instinct (RATI) is pass/fail only. Dogs completing the required element in RATI in less than course time are awarded a Qualifying ribbon.
- 2) Placements of first through fourth are awarded for Novice, Open, Senior and Master classes and are determined by time.
 - Each height within each level is placed separately.

SECTION 2. Moving up.

A dog who has completed a title at an event has a maximum of 30 days to move up to the next class level of competition.

- 1) Any qualifying scores/legs earned at the lower level during that up to 30 day period will not count toward any title.
- 2) Instinct (RATI) is not a required class. Teams do not "move up" from Instinct. Instinct and Novice may be entered at the same trial by the same dog/handler team.

SECTION 3. Ties.

In the event of two dogs of the same height and level completing the course in the exact same amount of time, where the outcome of the tie would result in a placement of first through fourth, there will be a tiebreaker.

- 1) One live rat tube is hidden on the existing course that was used in the class where the tie occurred. The tube is hidden in the same location for both dogs.
- 2) No litter or dry tube will be on the course.
- 3) Each dog is brought into the course separately. The handlers are blinded to the tube location prior to the tie-breaking run.
- 4) Time starts when any part of the handler or dog leaves the start box. No climbing or tunneling effort is required.
- 5) The team whose handler correctly indicates the live tube first wins the tie.

SECTION 4. Non-Qualifying (NQ) Scores.

A Non Qualifying (NQ) score will be assessed for teams who do not meet the minimum criteria for each class level and/or who do not meet the criteria of the rules as written.

SECTION 5. Penalties.

- 1) **False Start.** Handlers and/or dogs who leave the start box before being directed to/released by the judge are assessed a 20 second penalty, to be added to their time at the end of the run.

- 2) **Stalling.** If a dog is vigorously working a tube (live, litter, or empty) in such a manner that if that tube was occupied by a rat, the rat would be in danger, and if the handler fails to call a live rat or, alternately, redirect the dog to search elsewhere within a reasonable amount of time, the judge may assess a penalty of Stalling. The first incidence of Stalling is assessed a 10 second penalty. The second incidence of Stalling in the same run is assessed an NQ Score.
 - The act of vigorously working a tube should never be penalized. It is the handler error of failing to take action in a reasonable amount of time, thus endangering the rat (if the tube is occupied) that can be assessed a Stalling error.
 - The “reasonable amount of time” will vary from situation to situation based on how the dog is working the tube.
- 3) **Lack of Control.** Lack of Control can be assessed if the dog refuses to be caught within a reasonable amount of time, either during the run (dog grabs tube and runs away) or at the end of the run. Judges should give handlers some time to get their dog under control, but if the rat is in danger and/or if the dog refuses to be caught and is unduly delaying the trial, the judge may call a Lack of Control error.
 - For Instinct and Novice, a Lack of Control error is assessed a 10 second penalty
 - For Open and above, a Lack of Control error is an NQ

SECTION 6. Disqualifications.

Disqualifications are actions which may result in dismissal from trial and/or any/all upcoming events. These include:

- 1) Dog aggression
- 2) Unsportsmanlike behavior or misconduct
- 3) Intentional double handling or cheating
- 4) Failure to report bitch in season

Part 11: Barn Hunt Instinct (RATI)

- **Prerequisite:** None. Dogs may enter this class and Novice (RATN) at the same trial. Dogs may continue to enter this class until the Novice title is attained. Dogs with a RATN or above cannot enter Instinct. An Instinct pass is not required to enter Novice.
- **Course time allowed:** One minute.
- **Number of Qualifying Legs Required:** One.
- **Number/Type of Tubes on the course:** One empty tube, one litter tube, one rat tube.
- **Required elements within course time allowed:** Correctly indicate the tube with the rat.
- **Summary:** RATI is an optional class for any dog without a Barn Hunt Novice (RATN) title. RATI is a set course (*see Appendix B*). The three tubes will be placed uncovered in plain sight on the course. While the course is set up in such a way that tunneling and climbing are difficult to avoid, the purpose of RATI is correct identification of the live rat tube. A dog who avoids the tunnel/climb yet finds the rat will be marked as a passing effort for RATI. Time starts when the dog leaves the start box. Time ends when the handler indicates a rat tube.

Part 12: Novice Barn Hunt: (RATN)

- **Prerequisite:** None. Dogs may enter this class and Instinct (RATI) at the same trial.
- **Course time allowed:** Two minutes.
- **Number of Qualifying Legs Required:** Three.

- **Start Box location:** One flat side not less than three nor more than four feet from the opening to an Official Tunnel. The area from the entrance gate to the start box must be handicapped accessible.
- **Number/Type of Tubes on the course:** One empty tube, one litter tube, one rat tube. At least one tube of any type must be elevated. All tubes may be elevated.
- **Tunnel and Bale height requirements:** The tunnel is straight and no shorter than the width of two bales or longer than the width of three bales. At least one place on the course other than the tunnel must have bales stacked two high. More than one place on the course can have bales stacked two high. There can be more than one Official Tunnel.
- **Required elements within course time allowed:** Execute a climb. Execute an Official Tunnel. Correctly indicate one live Rat tube.
- **Summary:** Time starts when the dog and/or handler exits the start box. Time stops when the dog/handler indicates the rat and has executed both a tunneling and climbing effort. The required elements can be achieved in any order. If all other elements are not complete when the correct rat tube is indicated, the handler proceeds as outlined in *Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward* and *Part 9: Safely Removing the Rat Tube*. If the dog/handler indicate the incorrect tube or run out of time before finding the live tube, the dog is NQ but should be immediately escorted to the live tube, shown the tube, and briefly praised as outlined in *Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward*. before leaving the course

Part 13: Open Barn Hunt: (RATO)

- **Pre-requisite:** RATN title.
- **Course time allowed:** Two minutes 30 seconds.
- **Number of Qualifying Legs Required:** Three.
- **Start Box location:** Anywhere on the course. The area from the entrance gate to the start box must be handicapped accessible.
- **Number/Type of Tubes on the course:** One empty tube, two litter tubes, two rat tubes. At least one live rat tube must be elevated. All tubes may be elevated.
- **Tunnel and Bale height requirements:** The tunnel must have one turn and the exit cannot be readily visible from the entrance; the tunnel must look dark. At least one place on the course must have bales stacked three high. More than one place on the course can have bales stacked three high. There can be more than one Official Tunnel.
- **Required elements within course time allowed:** Execute a climb. Execute an Official Tunnel. Correctly indicate two live Rat tubes.
- **Summary:** Time starts when the dog and/or handler exits the start box. Time stops when the dog/handler has indicated both live rat tubes and has executed both the tunneling and climbing effort. The required elements can be achieved in any order. After indication of a live rat tube, the handler proceeds as outlined in *Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward* and *Part 9: Safely Removing the Rat Tube*. If the dog/handler indicate an incorrect tube or run out of time before finding all of the live tubes, the dog is NQ but should be immediately escorted to the closest live tube, shown the tube, and briefly praised as outlined in *Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward* before exiting the course. Dogs are only to be shown one live tube and are not allowed to find all remaining live tubes after they are NQ.

Part 14: Senior Barn Hunt (RATS)

- **Pre-requisite:** RATO title.
- **Course time allowed:** Three minutes 30 seconds.

- **Number of Qualifying Legs Required:** Three.
- **Start Box location:** Anywhere on the course. The area from the entrance gate to the start box must be handicapped accessible.
- **Number/Type of Tubes on the course:** One empty tube, three litter tubes, four rat tubes. At least two live rat tubes must be elevated. All tubes may be elevated.
- **Tunnel and Bale height requirements:** The tunnel must include two to three turns. One place on the course must have bales stacked four high. More than one place on the course may have bales stacked four high. There can be more than one Official Tunnel on the course.
- **Required elements within course time allowed:** Execute a climb. Execute an Official Tunnel. Correctly indicate four live Rat tubes.
- **Summary:** Time starts when the dog and/or handler exits the start box. Time stops when the dog/handler has indicated all four live rat tubes and has executed both the tunneling and climbing effort. The required elements can be achieved in any order. After indication of a live rat tube, the handler proceeds as outlined in *Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward* and *Part 9: Safely Removing the Rat Tube*. If the dog/handler indicate an incorrect tube or run out of time before finding all of the live tubes, the dog is NQ but should be immediately escorted to the closest live tube, shown the tube, and briefly praised as outlined in *Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward* before exiting the course. Dogs are only to be shown one live tube and are not allowed to find all remaining live tubes after they are NQ.

Part 15: Master Barn Hunt (RATM)

- **Pre-requisite:** RATS title.
- **Course time allowed:** Four minutes 30 seconds.
- **Number of Qualifying Legs Required:** Five, under two or more different judges.
- **Start Box location:** Anywhere on the course. The area from the entrance gate to the start box must be handicapped accessible.
- **Number/Type of Tubes on the course:** 8 tubes. One to five tubes will have rats. All tubes without rats will have litter. The number of rat tubes to litter tubes will change with every competitor. Any/all live tubes may either be on the floor or elevated or a mix of both. **For each blind all 8 tubes are moved, but those 8 tubes remain in the same location for all dogs in each blind, with only the number of live versus litter tubes changing for each dog. The extra four tubes are used to swap out rats and litter. Five rats must be staged in tubes at all times during this class.**
- **Tunnel requirements:** **The tunnel must have two turns and may have as many as five turns. The tunnel may have more than one exit as long as the first exit is after the execution of at least two turns. More than one place on the course must have bales stacked four high. If Senior class is scheduled prior to Master class in the same ring, the same tunnel foundation may be used if enough bales are moved to change the overall appearance of the course. For back-to-back upper level tunnels (Senior/Senior-Master/Master) the tunnel openings (either or both) must be modified between classes to ensure a unique tunneling experience for each class. The primary foundation of the tunnel may remain the same, as long as one or both openings are modified.**
- **Bale height requirements:** **At least one place on the course must have bales stacked four high. No more than two places on the course may have bales stacked four high.**
- **Required elements within course time allowed:** Execute a climb. Execute an Official Tunnel. Correctly indicate all live rat tubes on the course. Correctly indicate when all live rat tubes have been found.
- **Special Master Staging and Rat/Litter Tube Changes:** **Competitors are staged in each Master blind in groups of 3, 4, or 5. The Club, with judge input, determines the total number of competitors to be staged in each Master blind based on entry numbers and site considerations. The number of competitors**

per blind must be published and/or posted and announced prior to the first Master class held at the event. Once published and/or posted and announced, the Master staging group size must stay the same for that entire event, allowing for smaller blind-group sizes as needed to accommodate conflicts and odd numbers.

- **Summary:** Time starts when the dog and/or handler exits the start box. Time stops when the dog/handler has indicated all live rat tubes, has executed both the tunneling and climbing effort, and the handler has declared that all rats have been found. After indication of a live rat tube, the handler can proceed as outlined in **Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward** and **Part 9: Safely Removing the Rat Tube**. If the dog/handler indicate an incorrect tube, run out of time before finding all of the live tubes, or the handler indicates all the tubes are found when there are still unfound live tubes on the course, the dog is NQ but should be immediately escorted to the closest live tube, shown the tube, and briefly praised as outlined in **Part 8: Allowed Praise and Reward** before exiting the course. Dogs are only to be shown one live tube and are not allowed to find any remaining live tubes after they are NQ. Handlers can request to know the number of live tubes on the course.

Part 16: Barn Hunt Champion (RATCH)

- Pre-requisite: RATM Title
- Number of Qualifying Legs Required: 10, from the RATM Class
- Summary: The Barn Hunt Championship is awarded to the dog who has achieved 10 additional Master legs after attaining the RAM Master title. The letters RATCH precede the dog's name.

Part 17: Barn Hunt Champion X (RATCHX)

- Pre-requisite: RATCH Title
- Number of Qualifying Legs Required: 10, from the RATM Class
- Summary: The Barn Hunt Championship X is awarded to the dog who has achieved 10 additional Master legs after attaining the RATCH Master title. The letters RATCHX precede the dog's name. Repeated RATCHX titles are allowed and are shown as RATCHX2, RATCHX3, etc..

Part 18: National Championship Titles (Non-Regular)

Amendment added 9/20/14

Effective immediately, and to include dogs who received these awards at the 2014 Barn Hunt National, the following title designations will be used for the Gold Medal winners:

- **RG C:** Games Champion. This title is awarded to the dog who receives the Gold Medal in Games competition at any Barn Hunt National.
- **RVC:** Versatility Champion. This title is awarded to the dog who receives the Gold Medal in Versatility competition at any Barn Hunt National
- **RGNC:** Grand National Champion. This title is awarded to the dog who receives the Gold Medal in the Grand National at any Barn Hunt National.

These titles are prefix titles and will appear before the dog's registered name in the Barn Hunt record and on Barn Hunt certificates. Only three dogs per year will receive the title, and that title will always be reserved only for Gold Medal winners at the National. In the case of a dog repeating as a Gold Medal winner at the National, a number designation will be appended to the title (i.e., RGNC2).

Barn Hunt Judge Guidelines

Part 1: Overview

.....
An efficient, capable, friendly, and supportive judge is the key to success of Barn Hunt.

It is the judge's job to create courses and run his or her ring in a professional and sportsmanlike way, reflecting well on the sport and the BHA administration. Judges should never curse, yell, touch a dog without permission, correct a dog, etc. However, if the judge is directly threatened by a dog the judge may take what actions he or she deems necessary for protection. A judge may also act decisively if a dog directly threatens another human or a dog as long as the judge is confident of personal safety.

Judges should exhibit good course design skills and impartiality. Judges should also communicate with show giving clubs/groups in a timely and courteous manner, be on time and ready to judge, and measure dogs as necessary.

Judges must always be cognizant that their demeanor and professionalism will shape the experience of spectators, trial staff, and competitors on the sport of Barn Hunt. Even when not in an active judging role, judges should always be above reproach in how they deal with others in connection with the sport and be a role model for Barn Hunt.

Part 2: Becoming a Judge

.....
All judges must complete an application and pass a test with a score of 90% or higher

SECTION 1. Instinct through Open qualifications (B level judge)

To become a judge for the levels of Instinct through Open, a prospective judge must have completed all of the following:

- 1) Must have handled at least one dog to a Novice title (RATN).
- 2) Must have performed a full range of judging duties as the primary judge at one or more fun tests.
- 3) Must have worked at least once in the following positions for the cumulative time of an entire Licensed Trial:
 - Rat Wrangler
 - Assistant Judge
- 4) Must attend a judge workshop:
 - Prior to becoming a judge if no other official dog sport judging experience (see **Section 4: Official Dog Sport List**) OR
 - Within one year of becoming a judge if other official dog sport judging experience

SECTION 2. Instinct through Master qualifications (A level judge)

To become a judge for the levels of Instinct through Master, a prospective judge must have completed all of the following:

- 1) Must have handled at least one dog to an Open title (RATO).
- 2) Must have worked:
 - For Current B level judges licensed through Open only: As a Back Up Judge at the Senior and/or Master level for the cumulative total of two or more licensed trials; OR
 - For new judges applying directly for Instinct through Master: Must have performed the full range of judging duties as the primary judge at two or more Fun Tests.

- 3) Must have worked the following positions for the cumulative total of two or more entire licensed trials:
 - Rat Wrangler
 - Assistant Judge
- 4) Must attend a judge workshop:
 - Prior to becoming a judge if no other official dog sport judging experience (see **Section 4: Official Dog Sport List**) OR
 - Within one year of becoming a judge if other official dog sport judging experience.

SECTION 3. Back Up Judge qualifications

Back Up Judges must be a licensed judge. Both A and B level judges can be Back Up Judges.

SECTION 4. Official Dog Sport Judging Experience List

Judges in the following sports are automatically eligible to attend a judge workshop within the first year of approval as a Barn Hunt judge.

- AKC: Agility, Obedience, Rally, Earthdog
- UKC: Agility, Obedience, Rally
- NACSW Nosework
- ASCA: Obedience, Rally, Agility
- USDAA, UKI, NADAC, CPE: Agility
- JRTCA: Earthdog
- AWTA: Earthdog

Part 3: General information

SECTION 1. Contracts

All judges must have a written contract with the club for which they will judge which outlines costs, fees, and expectations.

SECTION 2. Dress code

Clothes must be clean, in good repair, and comfortable. Ragged clothing with holes is not acceptable. Clothing should be suitable for the climate and grounds. Judges may not wear any type of advertising on their clothing, including items with a specific dog's name, kennel name, etc. Small pieces of breed-specific jewelry, ties, etc. are acceptable. Judges must avoid the appearance of favoring a specific breed over other breeds. Footwear should be suitable for the surface on which the judge will be standing.

SECTION 3. Mobility

Judges must be physically capable of efficiently moving around the entire course area and, if necessary, climbing on the bale structure to position or reposition a rat tube and/or move a bale/bales.

SECTION 4. Timeliness

Judges are expected to arrive at the trial a minimum of 30-45 minutes prior to the published start time of the trial in order to provide course maps for the course builders, have time to tweak and adjust the course, and hold a general briefing along with the first class briefing. Trials should begin promptly at the designated start time.

SECTION 5. Conflict of Interest

- 1) Immediate family members of the Judge of Record for a trial (husband/wife/partner, children, mother, father) may not enter that trial or act as a Back Up judge for the Judge of Record. Immediate family members who own or co-own a dog with the judge may qualify to show a dog under the Back Up judge (see *Part 7: Back Up Judges*)
- 2) Dogs owned/co-owned by a Judge of Record for a trial which live in residence with the judge qualify to be shown by that judge using a Back Up Judge who is not an immediate family member (see *Part 7: Back-Up Judges*).
- 3) Dogs in residence with a Judge of Record for a trial who are not owned or co-owned by that judge (i.e., dogs in for boarding or training) cannot be handled by that judge using a Back Up Judge, cannot be shown by an immediate family member to a Back Up Judge and cannot be shown under that judge at that trial.
- 4) Judges may not discuss actual course configuration with any potential competitors prior to the trial, nor may a judge “practice” a specific course configuration/rat locations with someone he or she will judge within the next 3 months. It IS permissible for a judge to, as an example, practice courses in one location that he/she will use in a different area of the country where local competitors are unlikely to attend.
 - There is no time limit constraint on judges training with or instructing potential competitors, only on practicing specific course configurations with those potential competitors within three months of a trial.

SECTION 6. Smoking, Eating and Drinking

Judges may not smoke, eat, or drink alcoholic beverages on the course at any time. Judges may request and have on the course non-alcoholic beverages such as water, soda, etc. in a bottle that can be capped. Such beverages should be kept in an inconspicuous place. Smoking on the grounds should be discussed with trial chairs, and at no time can take place within 50 feet of the ring or enclosure. Open bottles cannot be carried while the judge is actively judging a dog. Non-alcoholic beverages which are not in bottles (coffee, etc.) may be kept just outside the ring.

SECTION 7. Handling Dog Aggression

Judges must have an understanding of general temperament and allow for the wide variety of breeds who will participate in Barn Hunt. Judges must be very careful to not practice breed or breed-type discrimination in any way. However, dangerous dogs are not allowed in Barn Hunt and must be dealt with in accordance with the rules on dog aggression.

A judge should never dismiss a dog based on hearsay, but only due to directly witnessed accounts. There will be a provision for dismissal of dogs from incidents not witnessed by the judge. If a dog commits an aggressive act outside the view of the judge, then a club member or staff may dismiss the dog. The judge should be informed of the dismissal and the circumstances.

SECTION 8. Judging limits

Each judge may judge a maximum of 120 runs per day in any configuration of classes.

SECTION 9. Communication

Judges should communicate promptly and courteously with potential show giving clubs, with email the preferred method so a paper trail can be maintained. Even if turning down a trial judging opportunity, please do so promptly so the club can continue their search.

SECTION 10. Judging fees

Judging fees are between the judge and the show giving club/group. A “per dog” or “per run” fee may be charged, or a “per trial” fee, or a combination; it is up to the judge and the club. One of the goals of Barn Hunt is to make it feasible and affordable for clubs, entrants, and judges.

Part 4: Course Design

SECTION 1. General course design specifications

Barn Hunt courses must be unique, handler accessible, and level-appropriate. They must be designed in such a way that the handler enters the securely fenced course and proceeds to a specific designated release area. The RATI course is a set design. RATN, RATO, RATS and RATM are judge-determined.

- 1) Each judge should design a different course for each trial. However, courses can and should be nested. Courses should be different enough to present a challenge. Events with two trials per day require a different course for each class at each level (i.e., both Novice courses cannot be identical and must be different enough that the handler and dog are presented with unique challenges from course to course.)
- 2) Courses must be designed prior to the trial and submitted to the club on the morning of the trial so that the course builders can build the course(s). Judges may use any software they wish or may hand draw courses as long as they are clear enough that the club course builders can use the diagrams to build the courses.
 - After the course is built the judge must review and adjust the course as necessary prior to the start of the class.
- 3) The judge must be able to see and hear the handler's mark as well as the dog and should plan course design to allow a walking path in order to do so.
- 4) Courses must be designed to allow a spot for up to two inside Rat Wranglers to stand against a barrier/wall.
- 5) Judges may reuse courses in different part of the country but should make every effort to build courses that are unique. A judge should not constantly use the same 3 or 4 courses; like agility, courses should vary by judge and trial. Competitors should not encounter the same courses again and again; they should be faced with unique challenges at every show. It is natural that most judges will develop a "style" over time.
- 6) Courses may not have sheer faces two or more bales high. There must always be safe ways to descend from bales and there should be ledges of at least 6" width offsetting sheer drops.

SECTION 2. Ramp Placement: Wooden/Constructed ramps

- 1) One wooden/constructed ramp is placed from the floor/ground to the first level of bales in each Novice, Open, Senior, and Master course. The ramp(s) should be placed in a location which will minimize tripping hazards for judge and handlers.
 - No ramps are used in Instinct.
 - Additional wooden/constructed ramps are optional. If used, no more than one total ramp per level is allowed. Novice would have a total of two ramps, Open three, Senior and Master four.

SECTION 3. Ramp placement: Straw ramps

- 1) Ramps made from straw bales placed on a diagonal and leaning from floor to the first level of bales or leaning from one upper level to another upper level are allowed in any number the judge wishes.

SECTION 4. Use of Boards

- 1) Boards are primarily used as a safe, sturdy base for straw placed on top of tunnels. In Open and above, boards must be used to stabilize tunnels in this way.
- 2) Board corners cannot stick out in such a way that a dog could run into them.
- 3) The front edge of a board must not protrude beyond the edge of the straw on top of it at the entrance or exit of a tunnel.
- 4) When two boards are used together, care must be taken that there are no gaps between the boards which could catch a dog's foot.

SECTION 5. Bridge placement

- 1) Bridges must be placed in such a way that corners do not protrude into open air
- 2) Bridges never span an area in such a way that a handler would have to duck or step over the bridge in order to go from one place to another on the course.

- 3) Bridges cannot span a drop of more than one bale.
- 4) Bridges may be used at any class level other than Novice, and at any height (i.e., either across two bales at ground level, or across two bales at a higher level as long as they do not span a drop of more than one bale).

Part 5: Prior to Judging

SECTION 1. General and Class Briefings

- 1) At the start of each trial a general briefing on overall issues related to the trial will be held. That includes:
 - An introduction (name and where the judge is from)
 - Allowed collars and leashes
 - Where the staging area is
 - Where the BIS staging area is (call for any BIS at the briefing)
 - Where spectators can stand (and a reminder about double handling prohibitions to spectators)
 - Request for any dogs who may need to be measured
 - Any club instructions or announcements (lunch, vendors, parking, etc.)
- 2) Prior to each level class, another briefing will be held which will cover:
 - Location of ring entrance and exit
 - Location of Official Tunnel(s)
 - A reminder about removing and replacing collars quickly
 - A reminder about the clear and unequivocal call of the rat, and that you may ask handlers to indicate tubes if you are not sure they have really found it.
 - A reminder of allowed praise and rewards

SECTION 2. Measuring Dogs

If a measurement is called for, make every effort to be calm, quiet, and non-threatening to the dog. Bring the wicket up from the rear, not over the head. Have the handler stand the dog with head in a natural position and feet four-square. The wicket should rest on the top of the shoulder, not the back of the neck or the back behind the wither.

Part 6: Judging and Scoring

Judging begins when the team enters the ring enclosure. Judging ends when the team exits the ring enclosure.

SECTION 1. Inadvertent lead outs

If a handler deliberately leads out it is an NQ score. However, a handler may inadvertently lead out. An example would be when the handler called the dog and left the box, but the dog did not come with the handler. Once the handler has left the start box time starts. They may not touch the dog, but can return to the dog and urge it verbally to get up and move.

SECTION 2. False Starts

If a handler releases the dog before the judge has verbally released them, it is a false start. It is the judge's option to either call the handler back or let the handler go on. If the judge doesn't have the stopwatch ready, the judge should call the handler back. Otherwise the handler may proceed if the judge allows. The 20 second penalty applies in either scenario.

SECTION 3. Timing

The judge is required to time all runs with a hand-held stopwatch. At the end of each run the judge shows or hands the stopwatch to the scribe or writes the time on the scoresheet. The judge never announces the time, as the competitor is not allowed to know his/her time until the end of the class. Optimally two hand-held stopwatches are used, with the judge handing a just used stopwatch to the scribe and picking up a reset stopwatch to use with the next dog. The scribe writes down the time then resets this stopwatch for the next competitor.

- 1) All times are to be recorded to the nearest 100th of a second.
- 2) An outside “overtime” or back up timer is allowed. This is a digital kitchen or countdown timer which has an audible ding or beep. The “overtime” timer is never used as the official timer. Rather, it is set for 5 seconds over the standard course time (i.e., 2:05 for Novice) and is activated by the scribe or an optional assistant scribe after each team leaves the start box. The audible alarm/beep will signal that the team is over time as a fail-safe for judges who forget to check their stopwatch.

SECTION 4. Hiding and switching tubes

- 1) In Novice, Open, and Senior the locations of all tubes are switched and rehidden every 5 dogs.
- 2) At Master level the number of rats on the course varies with each dog. For each blind all 8 tubes are moved, but then the 8 tubes remain in place for all dogs in the blind, with only the number of live versus litter tubes changing and the judge directing the RW to slide out a litter tube and replace it with a rat tube or vice versa. **Prior to the event, the judge must come up with a set of randomized numbers from 1 to 5 to use to assign the number of rats for each competitor in the Master class. The judge must have enough randomized numbers to cover all possible entries in Master for the event.**

SECTION 5. Keeping track of tubes

Judges have the challenge of keeping track of all tubes, live, litter, and empty, at all times. Judges should have a course map on a clipboard in the ring with them, the course map in a rain proof wrapper such as a clear plastic sheet cover. The location of each tube should be marked on the course map each time the tubes are rotated, using some way which allows the judge to quickly differentiate between the tube types (which has the rat(s), which have litter, etc.) and locate them easily and accurately. The method must be one which can be changed easily, but the mark cannot easily be erased (i.e., dry erase marker, then clipboard is held under arm and the mark disappears) or moved (magnet, but magnet moves or is knocked askew). Inside Rat Wranglers should know the tube locations and judges should use their inside Rat Wranglers to replace tubes as the judge is overseeing each dog’s exit from the ring and marking the sheet.

SECTION 6. Audible and hand signal confirmations

The judge must audibly call when each element of the course is completed by the handler. Those calls are “CLIMB” when the dog has completed the climbing element, “TUNNEL” when the dog has completed the tunneling effort, and “RAT” when the handler has correctly indicated the live rat tube. If there is more than one live rat on the course, the judge must call the number located. “RAT 1,” “RAT 2,” etc. The judge may also use hand signals in addition to their verbal calls. Suggested hand signals are a closed fist for Tunnel, a C shape for Climb, and a hand with the appropriate number of fingers held up for Rats, but judges choosing supplementary hand signals may use what signals work best for them as long as the scribe and the judge understand the signals.

- In Master the judge confirms the rat, but never indicates when the last rat is found.

SECTION 7. Confirming scores

- 1) The scribe holds the scoresheets and records information on the sheets to correspond to the judge’s calls of “Tunnel,” “Climb,” “Rat,” etc. The scribe never records anything on the scoresheet that the judge does not call. For instance, if the dog goes through a tunnel and the judge does not call “Tunnel,” the scribe does not record that the tunnel has been accomplished. Only the Judge makes judging calls and decisions.
- 2) After each run, the judge reviews the scoresheet and marks if the dog passed or failed. The judge shows the timer to the scribe or, alternately, records the time then returns to the course to judge the next dog
 - The judge may not turn his/her back on an exiting team to go to the scribe. The judge approaches the scribe after confirming that the dog is exiting the ring on leash and under control; judging stops as the dog exits.

- While the judge reviews and marks the scribe sheet, the Rat Wrangler(s) should be replacing and/or re-covering the tubes. The judge must briefly check his/her course to make sure all is in order before indicating to the gate or scribe to call the next dog to the line

Part 7: Rejudging

SECTION 1. Re-judging, general.

- 1) If a dog has failed on a portion of the course because of unusual circumstances in which the dog/handler are not at fault, or if the judge realizes there was an error on the judge's part, the team may be re-judged at the discretion of the judge.
 - Videotape evidence is not acceptable for use as a way to demand a dog be re-judged.

SECTION 2. Re-judging, timer failures

- 1) If there is a timer failure and the handler has not yet completed any of the course elements, the handler should be stopped and restarted immediately.
- 2) If there is a timer failure and the handler has successfully completed some but not all of the course elements, the handler should be stopped and staged to run again in a later blind.
- 3) If there is a timer failure and the handler has successfully completed all elements before the timer malfunction was discovered, the judge should ask if the team wants to re-run for time or accept maximum course time for a qualifying score. If re-running, the handler must be staged in a later blind. The dog must complete all elements including finding all rats on the re-run. If the team does not successfully complete the course on the second run, they are NQd.
 - Teams who have been NQd due to faults on any part of the course are not eligible for re-judging based on timer failure.

Part 8: Back Up Judges

SECTION 1. General Information

The use of the Back Up Judge is to allow Licensed Judges to handle their own dogs during a trial in which they are also officiating as a Judge of Record. This is to help Licensed Judges title their own dogs while also accepting judging assignments. A Back Up Judge must be used by the Judge of Record for any trial in which he/she wishes to show his/her own dogs, even if the actual course being used is not one designed by the Judge of Record.

- 1) The club decides if a Back Up Judge will be provided to the Judge(s) of Record and, if so, how many Back Up Judges will be available for judges to use. Clubs who decide to offer Back Up Judges should make every attempt to provide a minimum of one Back Up Judge per ring.
 - The club chooses which Back Up Judge(s) will be used for the Judge(s) of Record and how to best schedule and move those judges to maximize efficiency.
- 2) The Back Up judge cannot be any judge who is published in the Premium as a Judge of Record for the event and who is being paid by the club to design courses for that event.
- 3) Back Up judges can be used both to judge the dogs of the Judge of Record and, at multi-ring trials, to step into other rings while the judge's dogs are being judged.
- 4) At multi-ring trials with at least one Back Up Judge available per ring, the Back Up Judges can trade from ring to ring as necessary and need not be confined to a single ring.
- 5) Judges of Record earning qualifying scores under a Back Up Judge may not accept class placements or High in Class ribbons but may accept New Title or Championship ribbons if offered by the club.
 - Licensed judges may accept placements and High in Class ribbons at any trial they are not listed as a Judge of Record.

- 6) Judges of Record may show up to 5 total owned or co-owned dogs using a Back Up Judge at any one Trial (see information on concurrent versus consecutive trials below). Judge of Record dogs may be entered in different class levels (i.e., one dog in Novice, two dogs in Open).
- 7) If showing more than one dog at a class/level, the Judge of Record must have one holding handler for each dog in each blind (i.e., if there is one Judge of Record and that judge has 3 Novice dogs, those dogs will stage in a single blind and there must be two extra holding handlers).
 - If the holding handler is not an immediate family member who also owns/co-owns the dog, when the Judge of Record exits the ring after completion of the course with one dog, he/she must go to the blind and exchange that dog for the next dog while the Back Up judge moves the tube locations.
 - If the holding handler is an immediate family member of the Judge of Record who also owns/co-owns the dog, either the Judge of Record can proceed as above and exchange dogs, or the immediate family member may show the dog under the Back Up Judge. The total number of dogs allowed is still 5 per trial per Judge of Record, even if an immediate family member or members will be handling one or more of the dogs. The rat locations must still be switched after each dog if there is more than one dog owned/co-owned by the Judge of Record in any one blind.
- 8) All Judge of Record dogs utilizing a Back Up judge are run either prior to show hours or at the end of each class level after all other dogs have been judged in that class.
- 9) Back Up judges are only paid for the runs they judge. Travel expenses, etc. are not paid to the Back Up judge.

SECTION 2. When the Back Up Judge is used

- 1) **At ONE ring events holding one trial per day with one or more judges** the Judge(s) of Record must use a Back Up judge to show any dogs she/he owns in the trial.
- 2) **At ONE ring events holding two trials per day with one Judge of Record**, the Judge of Record must use a Back Up judge to show his/her own dog(s) in the trial.
- 3) **At ONE ring events holding two trials per day with two or more Judges of Record**, the Back Up judge is needed for the judge to show his/her own dogs in any/either trial in which they are the Judge of Record. No Back Up judge is needed for the judge to show in a trial where they are not listed as Judge of Record. The judge may enter that trial at will, as a regular competitor and show in a regular run order.
 - **Example 1:** The Judge of Record for Trial 1 is Judy, and the Judge of Record for Trial 2 is Tom. If Judy wishes to show her dogs in Trial 1 she must have a Back Up judge for Trial 1. However, Judy may enter Trial 2 as a regular competitor, no Back Up judge needed. Tom may enter Trial 1 with his dogs as a regular competitor, no Back Up judge needed, but must have a Back Up judge in order to enter his own dogs in Trial 2.
 - **Example 2:** Judy and Tom are both Judges of Record for both trials, with Judy judging all Instinct and Novice in Trial 1 and all Open, Senior and Master in Trial 2 while Tom judges Open, Senior and Master in Trial 1 and Instinct and Novice in Trial 2. Both Judy and Tom must use a Back Up judge to show their own dogs in either Trial 1 or Trial 2
- 4) **At TWO OR MORE ring events holding two trials per day with trials occurring consecutively or concurrently** at least one Back Up judge is needed for each ring. Otherwise the rules are identical to those for one ring events.

SECTION 3. Using a handler

In trials with split judging assignments, any Judge of Record for that trial may choose to use a handler for some or all of the dogs they would normally show to a Back Up Judge. The handler cannot be an immediate family member. Handlers can only show the Judge of Record's dogs on courses which the Judge of Record did not design and are not judging. These dogs are included in the 5-dog-per Judge of Record limit and cannot take placements. The handler must be indicated on the entry form.

- For example; Judge Tom and Judge Judy are both Judges of Record for Trial 1, with Judge Tom designing and judging Novice, and Judge Judy designing and judging Open and above. Judge Tom has an Open dog entered in the trial. If Judge Tom wishes to show his Open dog himself or have an immediate family

member show his Open dog under Judge Judy, the Back Up Judge rules apply. However, if Judge Tom has a non-immediate-family member who can handle his dog in Open under Judge Judy, that handler may show Judge Tom's dog in the regular running order without need for any special accommodation.

Part 9: Assistant Judges

Assistant judges are apprentice and beginning judges observing the Judge of Record in order to get more experience judging in Barn Hunt. The Judge of Record must agree to allow an Assistant Judge.

Assistant judges must have their own stopwatch, clipboard, pen, and their own copies of blank scoresheets to write down how they would score the dog. The Judge of Record should mentor the Assistant Judge by discussing calls and being receptive to questions from the Assistant Judge on various situations and actions in the ring. The Assistant Judge scores and times each dog in the class just as the Judge of Record does and compares differences with the judge between dogs, at the end of a blind, or at a time convenient to the Judge of Record.

- 1) There is only one Assistant Judge allowed with any one judge at a time.
- 2) The Assistant Judge is stationed just outside the ring during the judging of dogs, but may step inside to assist the Judge when necessary
- 3) The Assistant Judge is strongly encouraged to help course build.

The Rat Wrangler in Barn Hunt

Part 1: Overview

The Rat Wrangler plays a very special role in the sport of Barn Hunt. That role is to ensure the humane treatment and safety of all rats being used at an event, to help the judge place and recover tubes, and to remove tubes quickly and safely from the ring when necessary during judging. The basic role of the Rat Wrangler is covered in the *Rules, Part 2, Section 7: Event Officials* and also under *Part 5: Rat Care and Safety* and *Part 7: Safely Removing the Rat Tubes*. All Rat Wranglers should read and understand those sections of the rules before agreeing to the position of Rat Wrangler. The below information is included in the rules to help the Rat Wranglers do their job as efficiently as possible.

SECTION 1. Caring for Rats

Those who have agreed to be Rat Wrangler must hold the welfare of the rats above all other considerations. The Chief RW will be ultimately in charge, but all RW assigned to a trial should actively participate in checking to make sure all rats are unstressed and willing and able to make decisions on when the rats need rest.

- 1) Decisions on when rats need to be traded out of the tubes can be made after any run and do not have to wait until an entire blind or class is complete.
- 2) Rats are more cold tolerant than heat tolerant. On hotter days the RW must be especially vigilant about making sure rats stay comfortable. Litter moisture should also be monitored to make sure the rats are not getting too damp or humidity is not building up too quickly in the tube.

SECTION 2. Inside Rat Wranglers

- 1) The inside RW(s) should ask the judge where they should wait. The place the RW waits is the same for an entire class, no matter where the rat tubes are hidden.
- 2) Arms should be folded or tucked behind the RW's back when a team is actively working the course so the dog is not attracted to the RW's hands. Avoid putting hands in pockets as many dogs think that means they will get a food treat.
- 3) The RW must remain still until the rat has been correctly called or until signaled or called by the judge or handler. At that time the RW should immediately and quickly move to a place where, if needed, they can safely remove the rat tube.
 - The RW is never to reach over a handler or reach in and grab a tube before the handler has finished praising their dog or before the dog is secure. Either the handler will hand the RW the tube or the handler will restrain the dog.
 - If the handler has not restrained a dog at an adequate distance, the RW can request the handler move the dog back.
 - If the handler is handing off the tube and does not restrain the dog and it is jumping up, the RW waits until the dog quits jumping to take the tube. The RW must never risk a bite in order to take a tube.
- 4) Once the RW has the tube the RW should smoothly turn away and proceed directly to the outside RW or to anyone willing to take the tube and hand it to the outside RW. Be sure the outside RW has a firm hold of the tube before handing it off.
- 5) If the dog has followed the RW, the RW should remain still and turned away until the dog is redirected, at which time the RW returns to his/her designated station and waits as described above.
- 6) If there are two RW working in the ring, the RW and/or judge should decide which tubes each RW is responsible for when switching tubes for each blind.
- 7) The inside RW is responsible for replacing tubes between blinds and should confirm placement with the judge after the judge has signed off on the scoresheet of the previous dog. The judge can also replace tubes, but the RW does not wait for the judge at the end of each run but instead immediately begins to reset the tubes and check that all tubes are covered.

SECTION 3. Outside Rat Wranglers

- 1) There should be at least one outside RW for each inside RW.
- 2) The outside RW(s) must act as an RW first even if doing more than one job. That means keeping an eye on the ring and being ready to take a rat tube at any time.
- 3) The outside RW should never change his/her position on the outside of the ring based on where the live rat tube is but, like the inside RW, should stay in one place during all runs in a class or, if operating in another position as well, returning to the same place during all runs.
 - Unlike the inside RW the outside RW can move around and does not have to be stationary, but should stay within a few feet of a specific area so the inside RW can find him/her easily.
- 4) Once the inside RW begins to move to get a rat tube, the outside RW should quickly move to the nearest location in which to receive that tube. If the outside RW can't get there and the tube is handed off to someone else, the outside RW should remove that tube from the volunteer as soon as possible.
- 5) Once removed from the ring, tubes must be placed in a safe location at least 10 feet away and out of sight of the dog in the ring. In Novice, the tube may be held by the outside RW with his/her back to the ring at least 10 feet away until it is time to replace the tube. In upper level courses, an actual holding area must be designated since the outside RW can't hold one tube while taking another. In Master, the designated holding area should be approximately 5 feet from the ring.
- 6) At the end of each run, the outside RW must very quickly return any tubes to the inside RW to replace.
- 7) Be sure when returning any tubes to the ring that the dog exiting the ring cannot interfere with the outside RW or the tube(s).

SECTION 4. Rat Wrangling in Master

Master class has special challenges for Rat Wranglers, as rats are changed out every competitor (see **Rules: Part 15: Master Barn Hunt**). For Master, there a total of 12 tubes staged and ready to go, 7 with litter, 5 with rats. The extra four tubes not currently in use in the ring must be located approximately 5 feet away from the ring in an area not visible to the ring or competitors either in the blind or approaching the ring. An extra Outside RW should be located at that rat staging area at all times. The object is to quickly trade out rat and litter tubes so that there are 8 tubes on the course with up to 5 containing rats. There will never be more than 4 total tubes in the Master Rat Staging area, with all or none of those four tubes containing a live rat.

Appendix A: Waivers, Agreements, Releases

Please consult with your own state and local laws as well as any needed information for your own club or parent organization if applicable for waivers. The BHA, LLC does not guarantee that the following waiver information will protect a club or group from all liability.

Certification of Agreement upon Registration or Entry of Dog

To be added to all entry forms, just under dog entry information.

I certify that I am the actual owner of the dog, or that I am the duly authorized agent of the actual owner whose name I have entered above. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I (we) agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Barn Hunt Association, LLC in effect at the time of this event, and by any additional rules and regulations appearing in the premium list for this event, and further agree to be bound by the liability waiver enclosed with my entry. I (we) certify and represent that the dog entered is not a hazard (dog or human aggressive) to persons or other dogs. This entry is submitted for acceptance on the foregoing representation and Agreement. I (we) agree to conduct myself (ourselves) in accordance with all Barn Hunt Association, LLC Rules and Regulations and to abide by any decisions made in accord with them.

Suggested Liability Waiver

To be added to all entry forms as a separate field which must be checked prior to entry.

I (we) agree that the club holding this event has the right to refuse this entry for cause 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, ribbons, and/or trophies, I (we) agree to hold Barn Hunt Association, LLC, the event-giving club, their members, directors, governors, officers, agents, or 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 BHA LLC 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 to hold the aforementioned parties harmless from any claim for loss, injury or damage to this dog.

Additionally, I (we) hereby assume the sole responsibility for and agree to indemnify, defend 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 at any time resulting therefrom, 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

I hereby authorize club-appointed videographer and/or photographer to use, reproduce, and/or publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to me, including my image, likeness and/or voice without compensation. I understand that this material may be used in various publications, public affairs releases, recruitment materials, the BHA LLC website, yahogroup or facebook page, or for other related endeavors. This authorization is continuous and may only be withdrawn by my specific rescission of this authorization. Consequently, the BHA, LLC or show-giving 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.

Other helpful premium information

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

Show giving clubs should detail any refunds to be made in the case of event cancellation for weather, acts of god, etc. Show giving clubs are not required to give any refund. That information should be in the premium.

Show giving clubs should insert information on any recourse offered in the case of an injured dog or handler. Partial refund, no refund, refund if waiting list are all options. Clubs should also give a date after which such refunds (if allowed) will no longer be accepted, i.e., “**all requests for refunds must be received by XX date**).

Exhibitors are responsible for being ready to go to the staging area, in the staging area, and waiting for the call to the gate when it is their turn to run. The judge need not wait for any dog holding up a class. The club has no obligation or responsibility for providing service through a public address system or steward for the purpose of calling or locating dogs that are not brought to the ring when required.

Owners are responsible for errors in making out entry forms, whoever may have made such errors.

Returned checks do not constitute a valid entry fee. There is a **CLUBS INSERT DOLLAR AMOUNT** returned check fee.

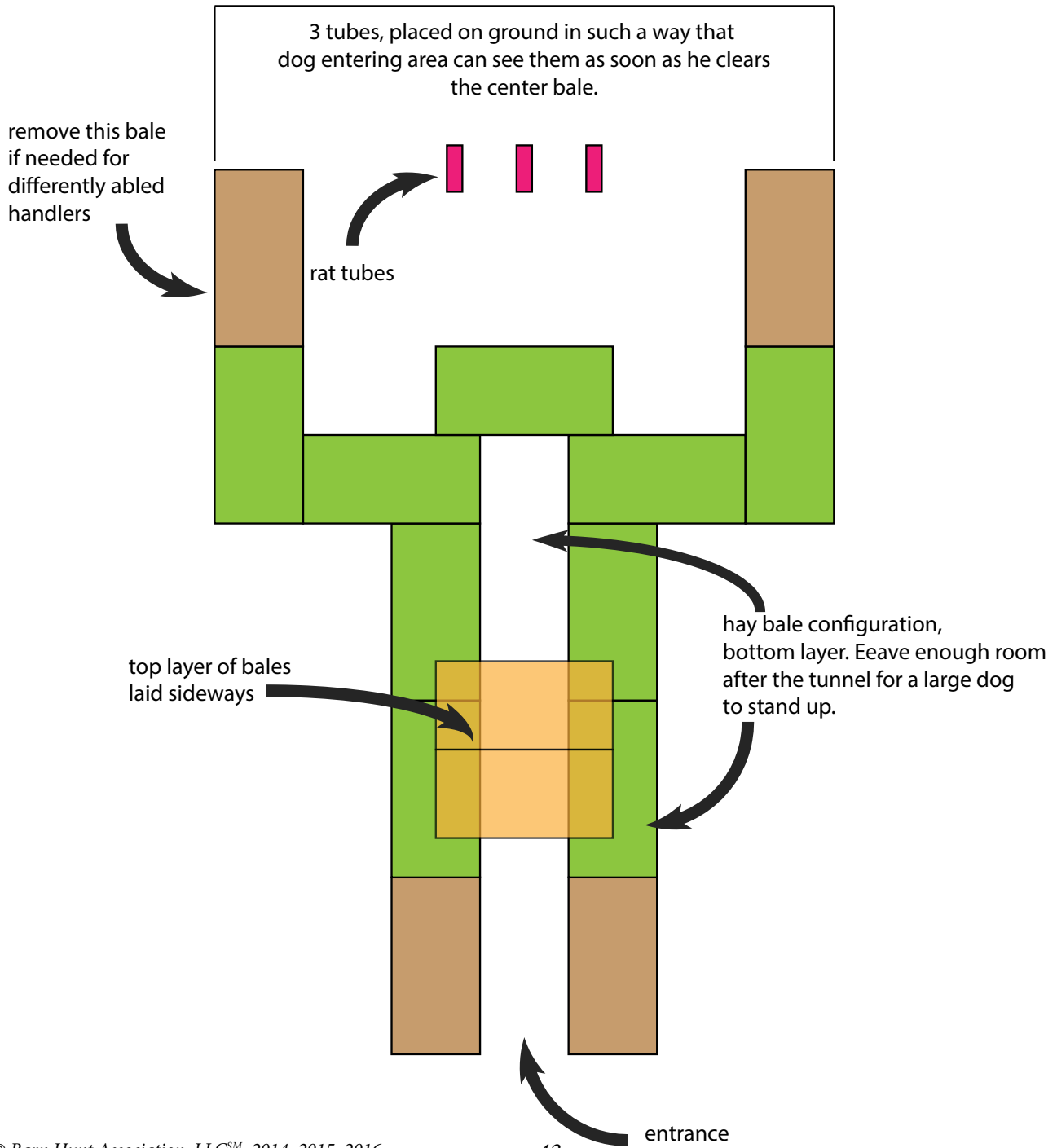
Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning up after their dog(s). Any exhibitor failing to do so may be excused without benefit of refund if the Event Committee deems the exhibitor to be in violation of this requirement.

RATI Course Construction Guidelines

view from above

Back side of course can be bales or fencing. All should be enclosed in additional secure fencing.

 REQUIRED bale configuration  OPTIONAL bales, use if possible based on space



Appendix C: Rat Tube Construction

Rat tubes are required to be made to these specifications. Clubs who have tubes made to previous specifications may continue to use those tubes until they need replacement.

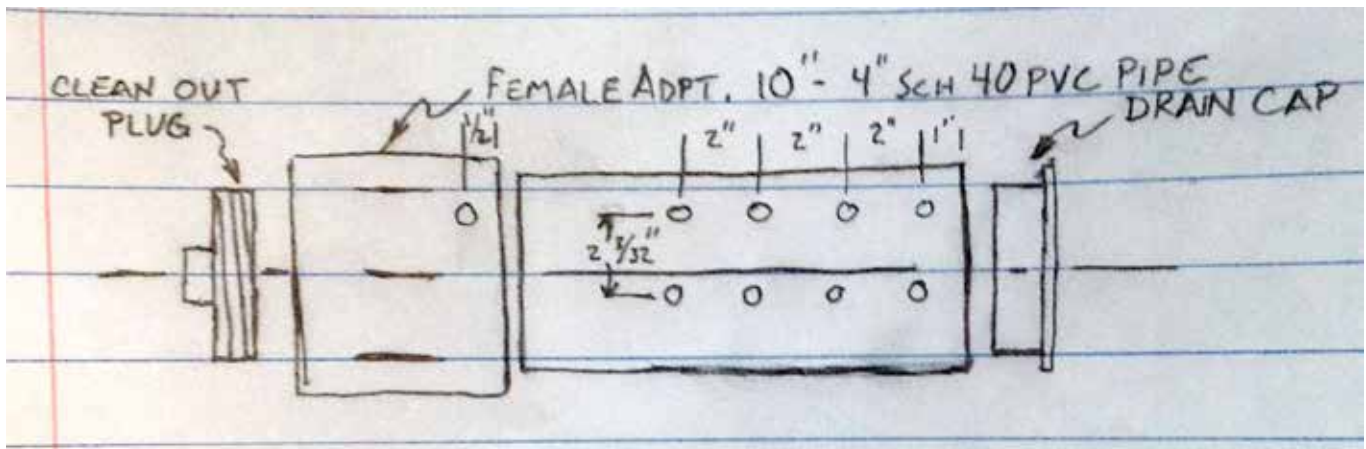
List of materials:

- (1) 10" section of solid core schedule 40 PVC pipe, 4" diameter
- (1) 4" PVC clean-out drain cap
- (1) 4" female adapter
- (1) 4" PVC clean-out plug
- Clear PVC cement
- Two types of paint (recommended Rust-Oleum camouflage spray light color plus flat yellow)

Instructions:

1. Cement drain cap into pipe
2. Drill 7 columns of 5/16" air holes 2" apart in pipe (7 columns spaced 2 3/32" apart)
3. Put female adapter on the pipe. Drill 7 holes lined up with the columns
4. Drill 4 holes in the clean out plug
5. Screw clean out plug into the female adapter
6. Wipe down and blow off the outside of the rat tube before painting.

Metal fittings, screws or caps are not allowed.

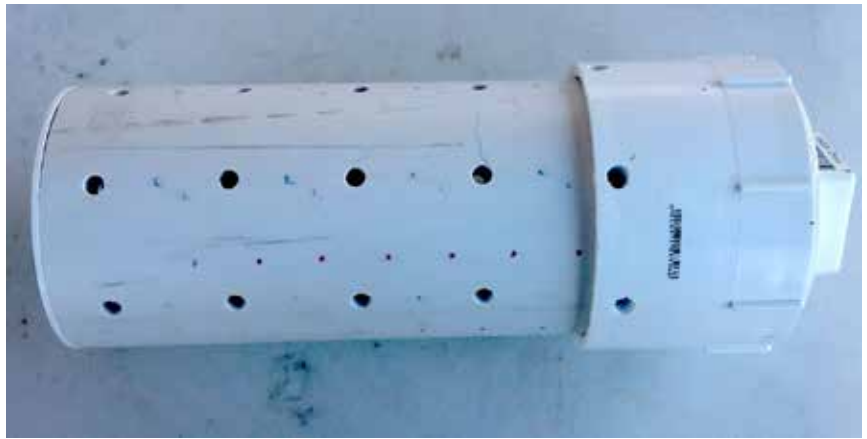


Photos of finished, unpainted tube next page

Note: These photos are of an unpainted tube. Tubes must be painted prior ot use.



clean out drain cap



side view



snap in drain; this is the preferred type.



interior view

Appendix D: Lattice Fencing Photos

Lattice fencing is made in 4' and 8' sections. The cross legs are not glued, so they can be removed for corners and gates. They can be tied together with zip strips, bungies, etc.

