



How to be a Barn Hunt Rat Wrangler

(this is a summary, be sure to read the rules too!)

General

As a Rat Wrangler (RW) you will be helping to make sure all rats are treated humanely. There will also be a Chief Rat Wrangler, but you still should speak up if you feel the rat needs a rest.

You need to be nimble and quick. If speed isn't your thing, then RW is probably not your job.

Inside RW

- **Stand where the judge tells you.** Keep your hands folded or behind your back.

Stay still! Don't move, walk, or fidget until after the handler says "RAT!" Don't stare at dog, human, or rat location. Once the rat is called, move quickly to the location without running. Allow the handler a few seconds to praise and reward their dog.

- **Touch/remove the tube ONLY when:**
 - The dog is **completely physically restrained** with its teeth at least 2 feet away from the tube, **OR**
 - **The handler hands you the tube** and you feel you can take it safely (dog not lunging at you/tube).

NEVER TOUCH OR TAKE A TUBE LAYING IN THE STRAW IF THE DOG IS NOT PHYSICALLY RESTRAINED WITH ITS TEETH AT LEAST TWO FEET AWAY. If the handler lets go of the dog and/or leaves the area with the dog before you get to the tube, **the tube then stays where it is.** You can't remove it later even if the handler asks.

- Don't snatch the tube as the handler is still rewarding the dog.

NEVER OPEN A TUBE IN THE RING.

- Be sure to hold the tube horizontal as you walk it over to the outside RW or whoever outside the ring is taking the tube. Be careful when you hand the tube off; don't drop it!
- Once the run is over and the dog on leash, work as fast as you can to replace tubes. The judge may have a map for you to use, and/or assign you one or more tubes to keep track of. Or you might be working with another RW and each have responsibility for half the ring. You should be replacing the rats and other tubes while the judge is checking the score sheet, etc. BE CAREFUL. Don't confuse rat with litter/plain tubes. Work out a system with the judge and other RW (if there is one) so you all are confident and fast on turnarounds.
- Don't forget to fluff your tubes. Don't cover them too deep or wedge them in so tight that you can't get them out. Just cover them with some fluffy straw so they disappear from view. They should be invisible to the naked eye.

Outside RW

- You will be taking the tubes from the inside RW or sometimes from the competitor. Sometimes the competitor may give the tube to another person outside the ring too, so you can take the rat tube from that person.
- You may be one of several outside RW depending on the ring set up and class type. Station yourself in an area and stay right in that area for the whole class; don't move around according to where the rat is because you could give away the location to the handler.
- Be careful to not fumble or drop your rat as he's being passed over the fence! Take the tube securely in both hands and transport it horizontally. Take the tube to its designated spot.
- Once the run is over, quickly hand all removed tubes back into the ring so they can be replaced as fast as possible.

Have fun, and thank you for your help!