



Happy Ratters Trial

hosted by

City Sniffers Rat Hunt Club

A Division of City Sniffers Dog Sports Training

Permission has been granted by Happy Ratters to hold this trial. Open to all breeds and mixed breeds of all sizes, at least six months of age.

February 10-11, 2024

2 Rings ~ 2 Judges ~ play up to 6 runs per day

Location (do not send entries to this address!):

City Sniffers Springfield, 800 N MacArthur Blvd, Springfield, IL 62702

Hunt for rats in tubes in an "urban" setting – no straw! Classes are run back to back in three sets: two in the morning, two midday, and two in the afternoon. Play six times but only wait in the blind thrice!

2 Trials each day of Regular/Standard: offering Ratter (\$18), Happy Ratter (\$18), Expert (\$20), and Champion (\$20) Levels. **Move-ups allowed both trial to trial and day to day.*

1 Trial each day of Earn a Rat game (\$20); 1 Trial each of these other Games:

- Saturday: Silent Hunt (\$15); Infestation (\$20), Rat Trap (\$18)
- Sunday: Dump Hunter (\$15), Rat Race (\$20) and A-MAZE-ing Rat (\$18)

Late entries add \$5 per run.

Judges:

Megan Renner, Chicago, IL

Kim Dykstra, New Berlin, IL

Entry OPENS January 8, 2024 & CLOSSES February 2, 2024.

Entries accepted on a first come/first served basis. Late entries allowed only IF trial is not full: must enter online by 5 pm the night before the runs entering. Email confirmations may not be sent for late entries.

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE](#)

Event Committee: Kim Dykstra, Linda Hinsman, Mary Lantis, Pam Lowrey, Megan Renner

ENTRY INFORMATION

Entries are accepted online only– no mail, drop-off, phone, OR email entries. Dogs must have a Happy Ratters registration number: register for a \$15 per dog lifetime fee at www.happyratters.com.

Exhibitors are responsible for complete, accurate and legible information on entry forms; illegible or incomplete entries cannot be entered. **Always check your confirmation!**

Entry Limits & Wait List: Entry will be closed when judging limits are reached. Entries received after that point will be waitlisted. If any entries are withdrawn, waitlisted entries will be taken in the order received. Any prepaid waitlisted entry not accepted into the trial will be refunded.

Withdrawals & Refunds: Competitors who withdraw prior to the pre-entry closing date will receive a refund of all entry fees, minus any non-refundable credit card transaction fees (if applicable). Competitors who withdraw after the pre-entry closing date receive a refund only if a waitlisted and/or late entry replaces the withdrawn entry. Entry fees will not be refunded in the event that a dog and/or owner/handler is absent or disqualified, excused, or barred from competition by action of the Event Committee. No entry fee will be refunded if the trial cannot open or be completed by reasons of riots, civil disturbances, fire, acts of God, public emergency, an act of a public enemy, or any other cause beyond the control of the Event Committee.

Judging Assignments & Class Running Order

	AM Set	Midday Set	PM Set
DAY 1 – SATURDAY			
Ring 3 (Megan)	Standard T1	Standard T2	Earn A Rat T1
Ring 2 (Kim)	Silent Hunt T1 (circle format)	Infestation T1	Rat Trap T1 (bags as tube holders)
DAY 2 – SUNDAY			
Ring 3 (Megan)	Standard T3	Standard T4	Earn A Rat T2
Ring 2 (Kim)	Dump Hunter T1 (circle format)	Rat Race T1	A-MAZE-ing Rat T1

SITE INFORMATION

Trial grounds will consist of the entire building and surrounding parking lots and sidewalks of the City Sniffers building @ 800 N MacArthur Blvd. FIREARMS ARE NOT ALLOWED OUTSIDE OF YOUR CAR. Smoking and/or vaping are not allowed on trial grounds.

The rings are inside a heated building with floors of rubber matting over hardwood or hardwood alone. The blinds are 20' x 10' tents inside the building. There IS indoor crating space; competitors may also crate out of their cars in designated parking areas.

The building will open one hour before judging start time and close one hour after the last dog runs.

Directions/Parking: From SR-97, turn north on MacArthur Blvd. You'll pass Douglas Park and the Linde building on the right, then look for the big red brick building also on the right. Parking for training visits is in the small lot to the south of the building (on right when facing from street). The entrance doors to the City Sniffers space are on the south and east sides of the building - the front door of building is NOT in use!

PLEASE REVIEW PARKING MAP TO BE SENT WITH FINAL CONFIRMATION. There IS sufficient space for RV parking, however, we do not have hookups onsite at this time. Please email Trial Secretary if considering bringing an RV.

Dog exercise areas: Designated potty areas are the green areas in front (west side) of the building and the large lot on the north side of the building. Please pick up after your dog and dispose of waste in appropriate containers outside the building. Any exhibitor failing to follow these rules may be excused without benefit of refund if the Event Committee deems the exhibitor to be in violation of this requirement per BHA regulations.

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

Check-in begins at 7:45 AM, general & judge briefings held at 8:15 AM, judging begins at 8:30 AM. Further scheduling details will be emailed to all competitors after trial closes and actual number of entries in each class is known. Dogs will not run in any particular height order. Multiple dogs handled by same person will be separated into different blinds. Judge of Record and Event Official dogs may be judged prior to official start time or as first and/or last blind(s) of a class.

Happy Ratters Rules can be obtained online in the form of a PDF file at <http://www.happyratters.com/rules/>. Exhibitors are responsible for knowing the rules.

Awards: Ribbons will be awarded for all qualifying runs, placements, and titles, as well as the following special awards:

- Fastest Hunt of the Day
- Sloth Award (Phew! Just in time!)
- Judge's Choice
- Perfect Sniff Day
- BBB "Bridge & Burrow Bonus" (most B&Bs performed during course of a run)

Fun Facts about Happy Ratters – see class and game descriptions listed below

- Treats are allowed in the ring (faults for dropped treats = points off, not an NQ).
- Food, toy, petting and/or verbal praise are allowed and encouraged.
- Deaf dogs, 3 legged dogs and dogs in wheelchairs are allowed.
- Points are cumulative from the start of that dog's runs in that particular level. Don't need perfect run to Q and earn points – see rules for each level.
- For Regular/Standard Happy Ratters classes, dogs with a Barn Hunt Association Open (RATO) title or higher may begin trialing at the Expert Level if preferred. Alternately, they may also start at Ratter or Happy Ratter Level.
 - **Ratter:** 1 rat, Time: 2:30
 - **Happy Ratter:** 2 rats, Time: 3:00
 - **Expert:** 3 rats, Time: 3:30
 - **Champion:** 4 rats, Time: 4:00
- For Games classes, all dogs start at the beginning level in each and work their way up. No litter tubes in games!
 - **Earn A Rat:** must perform Bridge or Burrow to earn right to hunt each rat (3 rats; Time: 2:30)
 - **Silent Hunt:** handler stays still/silent, judge calls the find (Level 1: 1 rat, Time: 2:00)
 - **Infestation:** bonus points if call "Finish" correctly (unknown # of rats 2-6; Time: 3:30)
 - **Rat Trap:** search field of many tubes hidden in bags; only empty & rat tubes (Level 1: 1 rat, Time: 2:00)
 - **Dump Hunter:** handler stays behind distance line (Level 1: 1 rat, Time: 2:00; 5' distance)
 - **Rat Race:** game of speed, find each rat in 30-35 seconds (4 rats)
 - **A-MAZE-ing Rat:** NEW GAME! Xpens provide ~ 3 ft wide corridor to hunt through a maze

Collars and Leashes: Prong, choke, pinch, and/or electric collars are not allowed in the staging area or on the way from staging area to the ring. Flexi/retractable leashes are not allowed inside the building. Dogs MUST run “naked,” without a leash, collar, or harness. Dogs should be brought to the ring with collars/harnesses that can be easily and quickly removed and replaced. All dogs must be on leash at all times except when in the ring or secured in their car or crate.

Bitches in Season (BiS): BiS are eligible for entry but will be required to be kept separately from all other dogs and will run with panties on in a separate blind at the end of any classes entered. Entry fees for bitches that come into season will be refunded if you wish to withdraw before the closing date. After the closing date, entry fees will not be refunded. If bringing a bitch in season, please inform info@citysniffers.org prior to the trial and inform all exhibitors at the judge’s briefing. ***Remember your dog must wear panties at all times at the show site (except when being taken out to potty.)*** We will direct you to the BiS potty area, please come to the Trial Secretary’s table before unloading your dog.

It is expressly understood that exhibitors alone are responsible for the behavior of their dog(s) and/or children. Any exhibitor whose dog(s) and/or children create unnecessary disturbances or repeatedly engage in unsafe or disruptive behavior may, at the discretion of the Event Committee, be asked to leave with no refund of any fees paid.

The safety of the dogs is our primary concern. By entering this trial, exhibitors acknowledge that they are familiar with the rules and regulations of this sport, and that their dogs are familiar with and able to perform all obstacles safely.

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE](#)