

# Rats! Canada Official Trial September 6th 2025

to be held at Dogs All Day,  
Indoor Dog Gym, 3765 Loggers Way, Unit 107, Kinburn, Ont. K0A 1L0

Judge: Lauren Taylor

Registration opens July 26th 2025 / Closing date: August 30th 2025 or when  
the trial is full.

Event #  
25-030-RC

Entries are accepted online only at:  
<https://forms.gle/Unzf9xqPNco7D9WdA>

Price per run:  
\$25 per run for Barn Ratting and Brush Hunting

Payment should be sent to [dogsalldaykinburn@gmail.com](mailto:dogsalldaykinburn@gmail.com) upon registration.

Registration is not complete until payment is received

. Please include the dog's name and date of trial being entered in the  
e-transfer comments.

Questions? E-mail the trial secretary at [dogsalldaykinburn@gmail.com](mailto:dogsalldaykinburn@gmail.com)

Start Time: Check-In Starts at 9:30 am. The briefing for the first event  
will start at 10:00 a.m. Facilities will open at 9:00 a.m. Please do not  
arrive before then.

Order of events: Barn ratting (BR) Novice 1, BR Novice 2, Brush  
Hunting (BH) Novice 1, BH Novice 2, BH Advanced 1, BH Advanced 2,  
BR Advanced 1, BR Advanced 2, BR Master 1, BR Master 2, BH Master  
1, BH Master 2, BH Champion 1, BH Champion 2, BR Champion 1, BR  
Champion 2

## Trial Information

This trial is held under RATS! Canada rules and regulations. All events are RATS! Canada recognized and approved. Rules and regulations are available on the RATS! Canada Web site. A hard copy will be available at the secretary's table for consultation during the event. All dogs must be kept in an X-pen, crate or on a leash when not in the ring. Any dog engaging in aggressive behaviour at any time will be required to leave the trial venue. In such cases, no refund of fees will be paid.

**Rules for all RATS! Canada games can be found on the Web site at <http://www.ratscanada.com>**

A [\*RATS! Canada Dog ID\*](#) is required to compete.

### PLEASE NOTE:

- Running orders will be made up in advance. You are expected to be present at ring-side or nearby during the time period when your class or event is being offered. If you are absent when your dog is called, you will be bumped to the end of the running order and may miss your turn if unavailable. When volunteers are ready to build the ring for the next event, the ring will close, and the judge will leave at the announced time. It will not be possible to credit the missed run for another event or day.
- The registration table will be manned intermittently during the day; however, participants are expected to check in and attend the general briefing for their class(es).
- If you run more than one dog in the same class, the running order will allow for at least 3 other dogs between each dog so that you have time to reward your dog and get the next dog ready.
- A dog eliminating in the ring will cause disqualification; **the handler will be charged \$5 for each soiled bale** that must be removed from the ring.
- **Entries must be received by June 28th, 2025**, or they will be subject to a late registration fee and space availability. Only electronic entries accompanied by an e-transfer will be accepted. Entries can be taken on the day of the trial only if the event is not full. Move-ups will be allowed if time permits.
- Any changes to entries, including cancellations, will be accepted until the closing date. Changes must be made to the Secretary by email. Cancellations received after the closing date will not be eligible for a refund of fees unless accompanied by a veterinary certificate.
- Move-ups will be permitted before or during the trial if space permits.
- The trial will be held indoors at Dogs All Day in Kinburn, Ont. Crating space is limited, please be kind and share the available space as needed.
- Concession/snacks are not available; please plan ahead for you and your dog.
- Facilities/toilets are available on site. **Please pick up after your dog as well as after yourself.**

## Notice to Competitors

Competitors, through submission of an entry, acknowledge that they are knowledgeable of RATS! Canada rules and regulations including but not limited to the following rules regarding entry:

- This trial is open to all dogs at least three months of age, including purebred and non-purebred, except dogs with injuries or illnesses that may cause the dog pain or great discomfort or dogs exhibiting signs of aggression that threaten the safety of other dogs or humans.
- Bitches in season (BIS) will be eligible to compete at this event, but notice must be given to the event Secretary at least 2 days before the trial so that separate crating space can be prepared. BIS will be running last in the running order for their class to avoid any contamination in the ring
- Physically challenged dogs are allowed and encouraged to compete. However, the dogs must not show evidence of pain or discomfort, and the judge shall excuse any dog that shows evidence of pain or discomfort.
- Nature calls (for the dog) in the ring are disqualifying matters. **The handler will be charged a \$5 fee per bale to replace any soiled bales.**
- Physically challenged handlers are allowed. Physically challenged owners/handlers shall provide the judge with a written description of how they intend to work with their dog. The modification must be approximate to the best of the handler's ability. The judge must approve and initial the modifications and attach the written description to the score sheet.
- Safety shall always be of foremost consideration. Handlers, through entry at this event, accept full responsibility for themselves and the actions of their dog(s).
- The organizing committee may refuse any entry or access for any reason.

### In addition,

THERE SHALL BE NO REFUND without a veterinary certificate for entries withdrawn after the closing date or if a dog and/or handler are dismissed from the competition, regardless of the reason for such dismissal.

- The Trial will take place indoors in a temperature-controlled space. There will be no refunds for weather-related cancellations. Please allow yourself adequate time to get to the trial location.
- All dogs shall be presented at ringside in a flat buckle or snap collar, plain harness, or properly fitted martingale (limited slip) collar. NO choke collars, prong collars, or shock collars are allowed at ringside or in the ring. A properly fitted martingale collar should be barely larger than the circumference of the dog's neck when fully tightened.
- Upon successful completion of an exercise, the owner may choose to briefly pet or touch the dog as a reward, but no treats, toys or accessories can be used in the ring.
- Dogs must remain controlled at all times, whether on or off leash, while on the trial grounds, including when a rat tube is found. Careless, excessive biting, pawing or shaking will lead to disqualification.

***Have fun!***

## **WHAT ARE RAT SPORTS?**

Rat sports are based on hunting and teamwork skills. Historically, rat catchers and their dogs offered their services to farmers to control vermin, helping to conserve and to preserve their grain and consequently protect the inhabitants from disease. The purpose of the RATS! Canada games is to demonstrate teamwork between the handler and dog team. The dog must display his vermin hunting ability by finding and signaling the presence of rats in a barn-like or field-like setting in which straw/hay bales are used. The handler must display his ability to read the dog's signal. .

## **BRUSH HUNTING**

Brush Hunting relies completely on your dog's ability to locate live quarry.

Brush Hunts are usually held outside in a wooded or fallow fenced area. The size of the area is determined by the level of difficulty. The higher the level, the larger the area the dog must search. Only one or two tubes containing a live rat are used for this game, except at the excellent level where 5 tubes are used. The tube(s) must remain in the same position for every team at any given level, and the handler is told where the quarry is before competing.

The tube is completely out of sight, covered in leaves or branches or straw. The judge stops the timer when he considers that the dog indicates, in a satisfactory fashion, the presence of the rat. Less than two minutes are allocated to find the rat. During the first minute, only the dog is allowed in the ring. The handler must remain at the entrance in the designed start box and wait for permission to enter the ring and to help his dog for the remaining minute (times change as levels advance). The handler may approach the area where the rat is located. Under no circumstances may he speak, point, touch the dog or the tube as this results in automatic disqualification. If the dog eliminates in the ring, it will be disqualified.

The dog must find the rat in the minimum allowed time (varies by level) to earn a qualification. Qualifying in your first or second ever sanctioned novice brush hunt run leads to Brush Hunting Instinct Title (IBRH).

## **BARN RATting**

Barn Ratting requires good communication with your dog and an ability to discriminate odours and live animals.

Barn style hunts are held either indoors or outdoors. The land or building used is defined by fences or walls. Depending on the level of difficulty, many tubes may be used. These can be empty, or containing either rats and/or rat litter. Tubes are hidden between bales of hay or straw. The tubes must be in plain view of the handler and the judge, being more or less visible depending on the competition level.

The team is allocated 2 minutes to find the rat/s. The handler and the dog enter the ring at the same time. The handler can give one verbal command then must remain silent for the first 30 seconds while the dog hunts (the amount of time changes per level). Afterwards, the handler may encourage and direct his dog verbally. The handler is responsible to make the timer stop, calling 'Rat!' to the judge, when he believes that his dog has found a rat. If an an

incorrect tube was identified, the timer will continue despite being a non-qualifier. If a dog eliminates in the ring it will be disqualified.

Touching the dog before the judge confirms that the last rat tube is found or touching a tube that has not yet been identified leads to an automatic disqualification. You may however pet your dog briefly after he has found a rat tube.

The tube(s) where the rats are hidden are switched places for each blind. At the novice level, there are 3 tubes: 1 rat, 1 litter and 1 empty and clean. Qualifying in your first or second ever sanctioned novice barn hunt run leads to Barn Ratting Instinct Title (IBAR).

## **RAT CARE AND SAFETY**

*RATS! Canada is committed to the humane treatment of rats used at all RATS! Canada events. Rats are rotated out as necessary based on weather conditions and other factors. Rats are chosen and trained specifically for the sport. Tubes used are built for dog AND rat safety according to specific rat care rules. Rats will not be harmed in any way during or at the end of the trial; they are returning home to be as cared for and loved as dogs can be. Please [report to RATS! Canada any concerns](#) or unacceptable treatment you witness in any rat sport event so we can follow through.*

## **General Agreement / Waiver**

I (we) agree that Dogs All Day (the hosting club), and/or RATS! Canada has the right to refuse this entry for any cause that the organizing committee alone shall deem to be sufficient. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, of the holding of the event, and of the opportunity to have the dog participate and/or to be judged, I (we) agree to hold the organizing committee, the hosting club, RATS! Canada, including their members, officers, directors, agents and employees, sponsors of the event, and owners of the premises upon which the event is held and their employees, harmless from any claim for loss or injury that may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of this dog while in or upon the event premises or grounds or near any entrance thereto, and I (we) personally assume all responsibility and liability for any such claim. I (we) further agree to hold the aforementioned parties harmless from any claim for loss of this dog by disappearance, theft, death or otherwise, and from any claim for damage or injury to the dog, whether such loss, disappearance, appearance, theft, damage, or injury be caused or alleged to be caused by the negligence of the parties aforementioned, or by the negligence of any other person, or any other cause or causes. I (we) hereby assume the sole responsibility for and agree to indemnify and save the aforementioned parties harmless from any and all loss and expense (including legal fees) by reason of the liability imposed by law upon any of the aforementioned parties for damage because of bodily injuries, including death resulting at any time therefore, sustained by any person or persons, including myself (ourselves), or on account of damage to property arising out of or in consequence of my (our) participation in this event, howsoever such injuries, death, or damage to property may be caused, and whether or not the same may have been caused or may have been alleged to have been caused by negligence of the aforementioned parties or any of their employees or agents or any other persons.

I (we) further acknowledge that I (we) have read, understand, and will abide by the Official RATS! Canada Rules and Regulations, and the provisions for entry as set forth in the Schedule of which this entry form is a part. I (we) acknowledge and represent that the information supplied by me (us) herein is correct to the best of my (our) knowledge; if any portion of this information is found to be invalid or insufficient to establish the validity of my (our) entry, such finding shall render my (our) entry invalid in its entirety, for which there shall be no refund of fees paid. Further, I (we) represent that I am (we are) the owner(s) of the dog listed hereon, or that I (we) am (are) a family member of the dog's owner as stated and allowed in the RATS! Canada rules, and that I (we) shall hold the hosting club and RATS! Canada, including their officers, directors, employees and agents and their sponsors, harmless from any liability or claim made by dog's owner.

Further, I (we) hereby grant to RATS! Canada, their representatives, agents, and assigns, all rights and permissions to broadcast, telecast, cablecast, transmission, or distribution in any format or media now known or hereafter to become known. I (we) hereby release RATS! Canada, the hosting club, their representatives, agents, and assigns from any claim or cause of action for invasion of the rights of privacy, right of personality, or any similar right.

All video, broadcast, and telecast rights for this event are the exclusive property of the trial host(s).

When you fill out the online registration form at Rats! Canada, you will be asked to acknowledge consent to this waiver. You cannot register without accepting the conditions under which this trial will run.

Acknowledged Waiver Signed \_\_\_\_\_