

# RAT Trial Equipment Manager

## Best Practices – January 2018

**Thank you** for being the Equipment Manager for a RAT Trial. Because RAT hosts 9 trials and multiple demos, plus NW league, it's extremely important to coordinate the use of RAT equipment. There have been a number of changes to the storage and packing of equipment this year, plus new equipment added to the mix, so please review the various documents posted in the files section of the RAT website. There is also an Equipment binder located in Papa bear with all the information to help you when packing or at the trial. If you have any questions, please contact Teddi Bottiger and Cathy Percy, RAT's equipment committee focals, at perchntd@yahoo.com.

Papa bear is now better organized to support all of our one-ring trials and there are new labels to help you with organization. Mama bear is organized to support two ring trials (where both trailers are typically hauled.) The trailers were overweight and difficult to haul, so only the specific venue contact equipment should be packed for a trial. Excess equipment has been removed and stored in Baby bear.

### **Prior to a trial:**

- 1) Send the Equipment list to the judge(s) (or to Trial Chair to send to the judges) a month prior to the trial. Ask for a specific list of equipment needed prior to packing the trailers so that you don't load/transport unnecessary equipment to a trial. Each venue has an Equipment list posted in the files section of the RAT website.
- 2) Schedule a trailer packing date and confirm this date with Teddi and Cathy. This ensures that there are no conflicts with demos, etc. They will also provide you with information that will help your packing so that you don't over-pack items you don't need.

### **Packing the trailers:**

- 1) In order to keep the weight of the trailers down, only pack contact equipment needed for your trial. This may mean you will need to move some contact equipment out of the trailer(s) to store in baby bear, and move other pieces that you need from baby bear to Papa or Mama bear.
- 2) Please try to take only the specific tunnels you need for a trial. Tunnels are extremely heavy, and most two ring trials only need 5-6 tunnels. Even a two ring NADAC trial only needs 9-10 tunnels if classes are scheduled strategically (e.g. Tunnelers is in one ring, Jumpers in the other.)
- 3) Strap and securely tie down all equipment, including contact equipment.
- 4) Don't use tool boxes for step stools. There are two step stools in the back of Papa bear. These stools can be used at the trial to place leashes on. (The old leash holders have been retired.)
- 5) Please be mindful that the new jumps are made of composite materials, and the retrofitted jumps have plastic jump strips – please don't shove or force jumps into storage.
- 6) ALL of RAT's tunnel holders (metal, omega and bags) are acceptable for all venues.

7) Some venue specific items are stored in Baby bear – this includes doubles/triple jumps, tires, and heavy weave bases. See the trial diagrams to help with packing of these items in mama/papa bear.

8) See below for specific information about Fencing and Barriers for Elma trials, Dog Days, and L'Argus.

9) If you are the Equipment Manager for the NADAC L'Argus or Dog Days trials, you will need to pack various specialty items that are only used for this trial: shade canopies, umbrellas, sheep fencing and baby gates. Canopies and sheep fencing are stored at Cathy & Teddi's, so you will need to coordinate with them ([perchntd@yahoo.com](mailto:perchntd@yahoo.com)) for those items. Outdoor trial specialty items need to be returned to Cathy & Teddi and Baby bear as appropriate after the trial.

**At the trial and packing for the return trip home:**

- 1) Please put things back in the same location and as outlined in the trailer diagrams.
- 2) Collect all jump cups, game supplies, etc. and return to their proper totes.
- 3) Don't leave any loose items (new supplies, etc.).
- 4) Mark any items that need repair with caution tape (see Repair document) and pack last. Notify equipment focals of issue.
- 5) Don't leave any lost and found items in the trailers – these should go to the Trial Chair.
- 6) Remove all trash.

Fencing and barriers for Elma, Dog Days and L'Argus:

**Elma:**

The following fencing and barrier items are required:

- 1 each 100 foot roll of orange fencing
- 2 each metal "T" posts = ★ in diagram
- T-post driver and extractor
- White fence screen
- Black plastic fence stakes = ▲ in diagram
- 24 each "baby gates" and feet (see arrows on diagram)

**Dog Days and L'Argus:**

The following fencing and barrier items are required:

- 10 each rolls of sheep fencing (84 feet/roll, in labeled black duffels)
- 8 each metal "T" posts for ring corners
- T-post driver and extractor
- Black plastic fence stakes
- All "baby gates" and feet (in labeled black duffels)

