

RAINIER AGILITY TEAM

EVENTS POLICY

**Including Trial Budgets, Trial Committee Job Descriptions,
Voucher Positions and Benefits**

Approved by RAT Board of Directors
Revised December, 2019

Official Posted Revision 2019-3

This document supersedes and replaces any previous documents.

Any printed copy of this document should be considered
FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

| The official document will be posted on the Rainier Agility Team website and maintained by
The Board of Directors

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Trial Committee:

The Trial Committee for each Rainier Agility Team trial consists of the following:

- Trial Chair
- Chair-In-Training (mentored one trial by Trial Chair when needed)
- Trial Secretary
- Trial Secretary-In-Training (mentored one trial by Trial Secretary when needed)
- Scorekeeper
- Chief Course Builder(s) (1 Chief Course Builder per Ring)
- Chief Ring Steward(s)
- Equipment Manager
- Volunteer Hospitality
- Judge(s) Transport
- Electronics Manager
- Trailer Hauling
- Awards
- Raffle (optional)

Responsibilities of Trial Committee

Trial Chair including Chair-In-Training:

The Chair is responsible for all aspects of the trial before, during and after. As a person performing duties on behalf of RAT including following and setting policy for the trial, accepting money for entry or approving payment for services, the Trial Chair and Chair-In-Training (when needed) must be current RAT members as required by our Insurance Underwriter.

Duties include but are not limited to the following;

1. Check with the RAT Facility Coordinator to secure dates for each location. The Chair should give the Board member the necessary information concerning number of rooms needed for judges and committee members (or RV hookup). If a date change is necessary the Chair will work with the board member to make arrangements and also check that the contract is signed and deposit paid. RAT Treasurer and Facility Coordinator will maintain copies of all contracts and agreements to ensure billing amounts from each facility is correct before paying the invoice.
2. The Trial Chair should also coordinate with the sanctioning venue if a change in date is necessary.
3. Hire judges providing them with RAT approved policy on judge's expenses (see note on Page 13 concerning approved expenses from judges).
4. File trial application and/or coordinate with Trial Secretary about trial application. Each application should be filed with appropriate fees within the timeframe outlined by sanctioning organization. Late fees should be avoided. In the case of NADAC

applications fee will be paid by the treasurer using PayPal at the request of the organization.

5. Send any paperwork required by sanctioning organization (maps of venue, equipment list, etc.) If the RAT Certificate of Insurance has not been updated for the sanctioning organization or facility please contact club treasurer.
6. Form show committee – Secretary, Equipment Manager, Chief Course Builder(s), Chief Ring Steward(s), Judge(s) Transport, Volunteer Hospitality, Raffle (optional), Awards, Trailer Hauler(s), approved Electronics person. If a scorekeeper is used the secretary makes arrangements with that person directly.
7. Get above information to secretary in time for premium to be filed with sanctioning organization.
8. Work with secretary to decide offered classes and class order.
9. Review premium before it is submitted to sanctioning organization.
10. Verify that the Chief Ring Steward has a copy of the most recent membership list (current list is available on the RAT website).
11. Arrange people to help with trial set up. Requesting help prior to the trial and using the RAT List to solicit this help is strongly suggested. A total of five (5) \$5.00 Thank You gift cards may be used to encourage people to help with set up. Depending on how the Trial Chair chooses to use the \$50 voucher available for Last Man Standing an Early Bird RAT voucher in the amount of \$25 (leaving \$25 for Last Man Standing) is raffled to all people helping with set up.
12. Encourage people to help with tear down. A total of ten (10) \$5.00 Thank You gift cards may be used to encourage people to help with tear down. A Last Man Standing RAT voucher in the amount of \$25/\$50 is raffled to all people helping with tear down. The options to use two \$25 vouchers for Early Bird and Last Man Standing can be combined to one \$50 for Last Man Standing.
13. Check in with judges concerning travel so timely booking of flights is made to ensure economical fares. Reimbursement to the judge at time of booking can be requested from the club treasurer. Also make sure all food preferences and accommodations are arranged (hotel accommodations will be secured by and paid for by RAT Treasurer).
14. Check in with Judge(s) Transport to make sure that they have the travel itineraries, judge contact information and have plans in place for transport to and from airport and transport to and from meals or judge's dinner.
15. Coordinate with Hospitality if food preferences or allergies, etc. are expressed by a judge. Also make arrangements for snacks, bottled water, etc. to be available for judge(s) in their accommodations. Make sure of breakfast options and snacks in the lodge.
16. Arrange for judge's dinner and gifts – coordinating with appropriate committee members.
17. Check in with Awards person to be sure ribbons/poles will be ready including number of Championship ribbons possibly needed. The Chair, Secretary and Awards person should choose the organization that will receive the ribbon donation from the trial.

18. Provide budget information (both monetary or vouchers) and position requirements to all committee members. Check in to see if all is going well or if they need anything (approximately 2 months before trial, 1 month before trial and 1-2 weeks before trial).
19. Request vouchers and Workers' Coupons for show committee from RAT Treasurer. The Treasurer needs this information at least one week prior to the trial. The Treasurer will coordinate with the Trial Secretary concerning vouchers used for entry into the trial.
20. Request copy of first course map(s) from judge(s). These course maps and the initial course build(s) should be coordinated with Chief Course Builder(s).
21. Give briefing each morning at trial, including judge introductions, facility rules and thanking the volunteers.
22. Answer questions, make decisions, take care of any problems, and write up any incidents to be included in trial report to sanctioning organization.
23. Reportable Incidents (involving dogs or humans) should be sent to the Board immediately, preferably on the day they happen. Information such as handler name, dog name and a complete description of the incident should be included.
23. Should an Emergency Letter be received from an organization or the knowledge of a dog with a communicable illness be brought to their attention the Chair and/or Secretary should immediately notify the Board. When setting policy for how these instances will be handled the Board should be involved in all decisions. Any complaints from competitors can be directed to Board to handle. This revision was requested by our Insurance Underwriter to maintain our Liability Insurance.
24. In the event that a competitor has an issue with how a course is set, including tunnel stabilizing, they should be directed immediately to the Judge of Record for clarification. This should be announced at the general briefing each morning.
25. Keep in touch with all show committee members throughout trial.
26. Verbalize lots of "thank you" throughout trial. Work to assure a positive and continuous flow to the trial.
27. Fill out Reimbursement Form with attached receipts and submit to RAT Treasurer within 30 days of event. Make sure that your committee members also have Reimbursement Forms for submitting expenses and they are aware of the 30 day time limit.
28. Write article about trial for newsletter/blog and submit in a timely fashion to the editor. A copy of your article should also be sent to the club President.
29. Post to RAT email list of people to thank or specifically recognize and trial wrap-up.

Many of these items are shared between the team of Trial Chair and Trial Secretary. Although the Trial Chair is ultimately responsible for the running of the trial a strong relationship with the Trial Secretary is desirable and necessary.

These duties can be shared with a Chair-In-Training at the Chair's discretion as a means of mentoring. The Chair-In-Training should be included in all discussions with regards to trial matters. A Chair-In-Training is not a permanent position and should be used once for training purposes.

If budget (including pricing for the trial) or policy questions arise the Chair should involve the RAT Board in the decision making. All entry pricing, discounts and entry packages

should have prior Board approval before submitting premium to sanctioning organization. If the Trial Chair has any additional policy or budget questions they should be addressed with the Board prior to implementation.

Trial Secretary includes Secretary-In-Training:

As a person performing duties on behalf of RAT including following and setting policy for the trial, accepting money for entry and approving refunds, the Trial Secretary and Secretary-In-Training (when needed) must be current RAT members as required by our Insurance Underwriter.

Duties include but are not limited to the following;

1. Coordinate with Chair on Opening and Closing dates for the trial as well as classes offered.
2. Create premium, review it with Chair and submit to sanctioning organization within required timeframe. In the case of NADAC request that the treasurer send the necessary fees via PayPal. When creating the fee schedule for the premium any changes from previous trials with regards to pricing should be approved by the Board before premium is submitted.
3. Secure scorekeeper if needed.
4. Get RAT laptops and printers from previous RAT Trial Secretary. No major updates of computer operating systems should be changed without prior approval from Board.
5. Purchase ink, paper, and other supplies are required. Keep receipts to include with Reimbursement Form to be submitted to RAT Treasurer for payment.
6. Set up show database on RAT laptop(s).
7. Coordinate with Chair and judges for necessary details including class order, etc.
8. Receive entries.
9. Enter entries into applicable trial/show database.
10. Send out pre-trial communications to exhibitors.
11. Give checks and vouchers to RAT Treasurer for deposit one week prior to trial dates.
12. Prepare scribe sheets and gates sheets for use at the trial.
13. Prepare paperwork required to be signed by judges (measurement report, etc.).
14. At present, the Board is requesting that Day of Show entries be accommodated for all trials if allowed by sanctioning organization. These additions should be accommodated all day, again if allowed by the sanctioning organization.
15. Answer general trial day questions from exhibitors.
16. Answer questions from exhibitors about trial results.
17. If offering day-to-day move-ups set parameters for exhibitors to submit necessary information. Make sure information is available at morning briefings.
18. After trial, submit necessary information to sanctioning organization, including recording fees. The recording fees to sanctioning organization, judge expenses and fees should be requested from the club treasurer the last day of the trial.
19. Send summary of final results to exhibitors.
20. Retain copies of paperwork or e-file in accordance with the requirements of the sanctioning organization.

21. Submit final Reimbursement Form for expenses to the RAT Treasurer within 30 days of the event.

Many of these items are shared between the team of Trial Secretary and Trial Chair. Although the Trial Chair is ultimately responsible for the running of the trial a strong relationship with the Trial Secretary is desirable and necessary.

Scorekeeper:

The Scorekeeper works under the direction of the Trial Secretary. Duties include

1. Inputting scores for each run from scribe sheets.
2. Posting results.
3. Pulling scribe sheet if judge or competitor has a question or needs to verify a posting.

Chief Course Builder (CCB):

1. Identify course building crew and/or coordinates these people with Chair and CRS.
2. Request copy of first course map(s) for builds from Chair.
3. Help with trial set up and tear down including ring fencing, etc. RAT understands personal work schedules and life in general; if the CCB is not available for set up they should notify the Chair.
4. Directs and participates in all course builds between classes and levels working with the judge(s) and venue requirements.

Chief Ring Steward (CRS):

A dedicated CRS box has been prepared and is stored in the biggest trailer. It contains two pencil boxes one for each scribe table with pens, pencils, etc. Magnet, dry erase markers and other necessary supplies are included in the main box.

Duties include but are not limited to;

1. The CRS will identify key workers including people to assist with trial setup. This is coordinated with Trial Chair.
2. Partial CRS duties include but are not limited to preparation of the scribe tables (pens, pencils, tape, etc.), worker's schedule or white boards, chairs in the ring for ring crew including shade tents or covers for chairs.
3. At the trial, ensure all workers are in place at specified times and that they get worker's coupons.
4. Assist Trial Chair, if requested, in recruiting course builders to assist Chief Course Builder.
5. Turn in list of members who worked at the trial to the Membership Chair (current list is available on the RAT website).
6. Works with Chair, Secretary and Judge(s) to keep rings moving in a timely fashion.

Equipment Manager:

The Equipment Manager makes sure that all necessary equipment is available for the trial. This person is;

1. Familiar with trailer loading and reloading procedures (document located in the Files section of the RAT Website).
2. Prior to trial, checks with Trial Chair to confirm all equipment needed from list

judge(s) provide. Confirms all equipment and supplies are in the trailers. This usually occurs one week in advance of the trial. The Equipment Manager could post to the RAT email list a request for members to assist with the trailer loading.

3. Beginning of trial assists Course Builders with ring set-up and initial unloading of trailer(s).

4. During a trial assists with equipment questions. Makes notes of any damaged items and/or items needed to be ordered and completes/submits necessary form.

5. At halfway point of final day through end of trial, packs equipment back into trailers. Is point person for where equipment is packed within trailers (following previously noted procedures document).

6. Stays until end of trial until trailer doors are sealed.

Volunteer Hospitality:

1. Decide arrangements and menu for judges and workers. Providing lunch should be the main focus of monies approved. If the number of individual handlers entered in a trial appears larger than normal a request for additional funds may be requested.

2. Buy food and supplies to accommodate food arrangements and menu in accordance with budget guidelines approved by RAT Board (see Page 13 for Budgets).

3. Check with Chair and/or Judges about dietary restrictions or allergies. Make arrangements for snacks, bottled water, etc. to be available for judge(s) in their accommodations. Make sure of breakfast options and snacks in the lodge.

4. Maintain receipts and submit to club treasurer with completed Reimbursement Form within 30 days of the event.

5. Check with Hospitality Committee Chair to identify any restocking of general hospitality supplies.

6. Prepare, set up and serve food at the trial including cleanup and repacking of totes.

7. Complete Hospitality Checklist for restocking and forward to Hospitality Chair or volunteer for next trial.

Judge(s) Transport:

This person(s) is responsible for;

1. Transporting the judge(s) to/from the airport, to/from their hotel unless a rental car is provided for trials over 50 miles from SeaTac Airport.

2. Transporting the judge(s) to/from dinner. He/she will coordinate with the show committee to arrange for the judge's dinner.

Electronics Manager:

This person must be trained and approved prior to accepting the position

This includes;

1. Transporting or arranging transportation for equipment to the trial from primary storage (general location is the home of the Electronics Committee Chair) or previously arranged location.

2. Purchase, if necessary, of batteries for all components. Please check with Electronics Committee Chair before purchase.

3. Set up, maintain and tear down of equipment during the trial.

4. Cleaning, inside and out including cases, after the trial.

5. Transportation to primary storage or previously arranged location after the trial.
6. Report any necessary repairs or problems with operation during the trial to the Electronics Committee Chair.

Awards:

Responsible for overseeing all aspects of the trial awards necessary for the event. This position may be shared by several people ie: ribbons separate from poles.

1. Purchasing of all the appropriate ribbons, championship poles, etc. in accordance with RAT guidelines. Any changes to ribbon style, type or size should have prior approval from the Board.
2. Transporting and displaying the awards at the event.
3. Keeping inventory of ribbons on-hand and replenishing the inventory as needed for the event.
4. Identify with Trial Chair charity to received donation from ribbon exchange.
5. Responsible for displaying, collecting and reporting amount for ribbon exchange. This number should be reported to Trial Chair and club Treasurer. A Reimbursement Form with complete address of charity should be submitted to Treasurer within 30 days for payment.

Raffle:

The Trial Chair makes the decision to have a workers raffle or not. If requested this person is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Worker’s Raffle at the event. This includes;

1. Maintenance of raffle supplies (bags, containers, raffle tickets, etc.) currently stored in the big trailer.
2. Purchasing items and/or soliciting donations from members to be included in the raffle within Board approved budget (see Page 13 for Budgets).
3. Set up at the trial at a time requested by the Trial Chair.
4. Drawing for raffle winners.
5. Tear down after the trial.
6. A Reimbursement Form with receipts should be submitted to the Treasurer within 30 days of the event.

Trailer Hauling:

The person(s) pulling the equipment trailers shall receive as follows;

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Round-trip to Elma (approx. 75 miles each way from Argus) | \$250 or five \$50 vouchers |
| Round-trip from parking to arena at Argus | \$50 or one \$50 voucher |
| Round-trip to all other locations | To be decided on a case-by-case basis |

The person hauling any RAT trailer, whether to a trial or demo, must be a current RAT member, have a valid driver's license and personal auto insurance (as required by the State of Washington). This is required by our Liability Insurance Underwriter. A separate document is available with required load capacity of towing vehicle, tongue weights and braking assist system (pending).

Last Man Standing and Early Bird:

Any person, trial committee member or not, who assists with trial set up (Early Bird) or stays and helps until the trial is completely broken down (Last Man Standing) and packed into the trailers will have their names entered in a drawing for a RAT vouchers.

Vouchers, Benefits, and Additional Trial Information

General Voucher Information:

Vouchers are tokens of appreciation from the club to the volunteers. A voucher may be applied toward the entry fees for a dog or dogs at a RAT trial up to the amount of the voucher. There will be no refunds if the entire amount of the voucher is not used. For example, if a worker has 2 vouchers (for \$100.00) and only enters his/her dog in runs totaling \$85.00, there will be no refund or credit for \$15.00.

If a voucher will be used for the trial where it is earned please let the Trial Secretary know when sending in entry form. The Trial Secretary will communicate to the club treasurer the vouchers used prior to the trial start date. The Chief Ring Stewards or RAT Treasurer may also assist the Trial Chair to deliver the vouchers to Show Committee and All Day Workers at the trial.

Vouchers:

The following members of the Show Committee will receive vouchers that may be applied towards the cost of entries at that trial or a later RAT trial. Unless otherwise specified each voucher is worth \$50 in RAT trial entry.

| Position | 1-Ring Trial | 2-Ring Trial |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Trial Chair | 2 vouchers | 3 vouchers |
| Chair-In-Training (at Chair's discretion) One time position for training | 1 voucher | 1 voucher |
| Trial Secretary | 3 vouchers | 4 vouchers |
| Secretary-In-Training (at Chair's discretion) One time position for training | 1 voucher | 1 voucher |
| Scorekeeper (one per trial) | 1 voucher per day | 1 voucher per day |
| Chief Course Builder (may be split between several people) | 2 vouchers per ring per day | 2 vouchers per ring per day |
| Chief Ring Steward | 1 voucher per ring per day | 1 voucher per ring per day |
| Hospitality Breakfast and light snacks only Breakfast, snack <u>and</u> lunches: | 1 voucher/day 2 vouchers/day | 1 voucher/day 2 vouchers/day |
| Judges Transport (may be split between several people) | 1 \$25 voucher per judge | 1 \$25 voucher per judge |
| Equipment Manager (includes packing trailers) | 1 voucher | 2 vouchers |
| Electronics Manager | 1 voucher | 1 voucher |
| Raffle (optional) | 1 voucher | 1 voucher |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Awards | 1 voucher | 1 voucher |
| Thank You Gift Cards for trial set up | 5 - \$5 GC | 5 - \$5 GC |
| Thank You Gift Cards for tear down | 10 - \$5 GC | 10 - \$5 GC |
| Last Man Standing and Early Bird | 1 voucher can be split to 2 -\$25 | 1 voucher may be split to 2 -\$25 |

If 2 people split a job they share the total number of vouchers for that position.

The vouchers listed are not transferrable to other positions or used as a total number of vouchers available for that trial.

Worker Tickets:

Worker tickets will be provided to volunteers for use in entering the Workers Raffle or eating lunch. Volunteers will receive three (3) coupon for each class worked. Each trial committee member receives twelve tickets for the same use.

Lodging:

In addition to vouchers, the Trial Chair and Trial Secretary shall be reimbursed for the cost of their lodging for the trial weekend. The “cost of their lodging” shall mean the cost, for one night before a trial day, of staying at the motel/hotel where the judges are staying or at a comparable motel/hotel, either alone or with their spouse or friend.

Reservations and payment for these accommodations will be arranged by the club Treasurer. If the Trial Chair or the Trial Secretary elects to camp on-site instead, the “cost of their lodging” shall mean their actual cost of camping.

Food for Workers and Judges:

All volunteer workers are eligible for Worker Coupons which may also be used for the Workers Raffle (if there is one) or lunch (either provided by RAT or outside vendor).

The person who takes the judge(s) out to dinner shall be reimbursed for their dinner also. If someone other than a Trial Chair, Secretary or Judge’s Transport takes a judge out to dinner (for example, on the way to or from the airport), that person shall also be reimbursed for his/her dinner with the judge (see Page 13 for Budgets).

Priority Entry:

Members of the Trial Committee who volunteer prior to the Opening Date of a trial shall have their entries to such trial accepted prior to other entries postmarked the same date and will not need to participate in a draw, if there is one.

BUDGETS

| Category | | | Notes |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Trial Chair Discretionary Fund | \$100 | \$100 | May not be used for check-in gifts |
| Raffle | 1 ring \$100 | 2 Ring \$200 | +2 RAT and 2 exchange vouchers |
| Judges' Gifts | \$50 max. per judge | | |
| Judges' Snacks, etc. | \$20 max. per judge | | |
| Judges' Dinners | \$25 max. per person per night (for judges and one person taking them out). Includes purchase of main dish if Sat night is a potluck = \$225 max. (please consult with Board with special circumstances) | | |
| Judges' Airfare | Economy | | |
| Rental Car | Economy – trials over 50 miles from SeaTac Airport. Must be shared by both judges. | | |
| Check-in Gifts | \$0 (donated check-in gifts perfectly acceptable; solely at the trial chair's discretion) | | |
| Hospitality | 1 Ring, 2 Days with Lunch \$250 | 2 Rings, 2 Days with Lunch \$500 | 2 Rings, 3 Days with lunch \$600 |
| | 1 Ring, 2.5 Days with Lunch \$300 | 2 Rings, Other: discuss with Board | |
| | 1 Ring, 3 Days with Lunch \$375 | | |
| | 1 Ring breakfast and snacks only \$100 | 2 Rings breakfast and snacks only \$150 | Others discuss with Board |
| Trailer Hauling | Round trip within Argus \$50 per trailer | Argus to Elma \$250 per trailer | All other locations discuss with Board |

Reimbursement Requirements:

All requests for reimbursement of trial expenses should include a completed and signed Reimbursement Form (available on the club website) and supporting receipts. The request must be submitted to the RAT treasurer during the 30 days from the closing of the trial.

RAT Policy for Judge's Expenses:

This information is to be sent to judges when they are hired.

Rainier Agility Team will cover economy airfare, shuttle to the airport, airport parking, course copies, and meals on the day(s) of travel. RAT will pay the lesser cost of a flight with one-stop or a direct flight. The Trial Chair should ensure that flight reservations are made far enough in advance to help keep costs down. We will require receipts for all expenses and will provide you with a reimbursement form. or you may download it from our website: www.rainieragilityteam.com. For airfare, you can present us with a bill at the trial or, if you prefer, we can reimburse you ahead of time; just email us a copy of your receipt. We pay \$1.00 per run (as of 1/1/20 NADAC judges will be paid \$1.50 per run) and take care of food and your lodging. A rental car may be provided if the trial site is over 50 miles from SeaTac Airport. This is at the Trial Chair's discretion and must be an economy vehicle used by both judges. RAT does not pay for kenneling fees. **NOTE: Additional costs for travel and lodging for judges because of their distance from an airport should be discussed with the Board. We currently do not approve additional lodging days because the judge does not want to travel/fly on early or late flights.**

New Events:

For a new trial or event to be added to RAT's schedule or for a new site to be considered as a site for RAT League, a written proposal shall be presented to the Board, endorsed by at least four (4) current RAT members (at least one of whom shall be a Member in Good Standing (MIGS) with voting rights) who shall each commit to participate in the planning for such trial or event or to enroll in League at that site. The proposal shall contain a description of the trial, event, or facility (location, amenities, equipment needs, etc.), the names of the current RAT members who are committed to participate in the planning of such trial or event or to enroll at such site, and an estimate of costs to rent the facility for such trial, event, or site. The proposal shall be presented to the Board at least (a) four (4) months before the date of such proposed trial or event; or (b) two (2) months before the date that sign-ups for League are scheduled to begin at the proposed new site.

To add a demonstration to the RAT schedule a written proposal shall be presented to the Board as quickly as possible before the event. A two (2) month lead time would be preferred.

Special Note to New Rat Members:

Volunteering to work at an agility trial is one of the best ways to learn about the sport of dog agility and to prepare for trialing. RAT encourages new members to volunteer because working in the ring is a great way to get an "up-close" view of the dogs and handlers in action. Trial committee members and general RAT members are encouraged to help train new members who are not experienced in any position.

RAT encourages new members who wish to work at a trial to directly contact the Trial Chair or Chief Ring Steward as early as possible and no later than one (1) week prior to the trial date. The Trial Chair and Chief Ring Steward will be identified on the trial premium. When contacting either person please let them know your experience level for the various positions.

All RAT members who receive inquiries about volunteering at a trial are encouraged to aid these volunteers by (a) letting them know about the RAT website, (b) helping them to contact the Trial Chair or Chief Ring Steward, and (c) giving them general information about RAT agility trials.

Rainier Agility Team Canine Conduct Guidelines

In the interest of preventing undesirable occurrences of dog interactions at agility events, Rainier Agility Team has prepared these Canine Conduct Guidelines to help guide responsible interactions and to educate and prepare handlers. Our goal is to have no reportable incidents at any of our trials, fun runs or other club-sponsored events.

As always, we strongly suggest working with a qualified and reputable trainer if you need guidance on working with and handling a highly-aroused dog or a dog with fear-aggression issues.

It is the goal of Rainier Agility Team to provide an environment that is as safe as possible for the participants at all functions of the club. The club will actively work to educate the membership about appropriate conduct and the prevention of dog aggression. The Trial Chair or Event Coordinator will have the authority (in their sole discretion) to excuse and remove any dog determined to be dangerous.

* * Additional action, such as a ban from club events, may be decided as well by the RAT Board of Directors.

It is the responsibility of every competitor to read and understand the rules that govern each of the sanctioning agility organizations in regard to inappropriate dog behavior, including behavior that could warrant the expulsion of the dog from a trial or the sanctioning organization.

These behavior guidelines and management tips adopted by Rainier Agility Team were developed by The Bay Team to promote good canine conduct at events. RAT adopts them from The Bay Team with the intention of increasing awareness and understanding regarding appropriate dog behavior as well as to provide useful and practical information regarding better management of our dogs during all club events. Even if you have a polite dog, following these guidelines may help to keep your friendly dog safe on trial grounds and at events. We hope that you will join us in helping to prevent dog aggression incidents and keeping our dogs safe and relaxed by making use of these tips.

Inappropriate or questionable behaviors include:

*Dogs that snap and retreat without any intent to fight

*Dogs that snap, do not retreat, and intend to fight

*Dogs that lunge, growl or snarl at other dogs, whether their intent can be determined or not (including on and off leash and in x-pens or crates)

*Overzealous dogs that are sweet, but whose attentions or contact is not appreciated by other dogs

*Dogs that alarm bark

*Dogs with no recall that are allowed off leash on the trial grounds at any time(out of control)

Dogs that are capable of inappropriate behavior include:

*Dogs that are physically or emotionally uncomfortable (or all dogs at one time or another)

*Dogs that are defensive in regards to commodities including food, space and people

*Dogs that are reactive by nature/design (many of the herding breeds that do agility)

*Dogs that are in close proximity to any of the above dogs

*Dogs without space manners (they want to approach most or all other dogs)

If your dog is exhibiting any of these behaviors you should:

*Begin taking management steps to avoid any scenarios that cause the behavior

*Begin training step to eliminate or decrease the behavior

*Talk with your instructor about your dog's behavior and ask for help in improving your dogs' behavior

*Educate yourself so that you understand where these current behaviors could be heading

MANAGEMENT TIPS ... for Dogs with Questionable or Undesirable Behaviors

Managing behavior means taking preventative measures that protect your dog from opportunities to practice unwanted behaviors. It should not be confused with training.

Training would imply that the dog has been systematically taught a new behavior to replace an unwanted one. Management can be a critical tool during the training process.

Success in eliminating unwanted behaviors is determined by who the dog is as well as the ability of the trainer.

The following tips are designed to help you manage your dog at our events. They are intended to be an immediate and possibly temporary approach to immediate situations and should not be considered as anything different. You may need to explore long- term training solutions with a professional.

Confinement

Being smart about your dogs' confinement is critical to your dogs' comfort as well as helping prevent inappropriate behaviors!

*The type of crate you choose and where you set it can be key to managing many behaviors.

*Understand that even dogs that love each other may prefer not to be confined with each other on certain occasions.

*Confinement and privacy go hand in hand. Most items used for confinement can be made private with some kind of cover. A simple bed sheet will often do the trick.

*Choose a crating place that has the lowest traffic instead of the most convenience

Choosing the best way to confine your dog:

*X-pens: are not very stable and while roomy offer no privacy and stimulation is often the enemy

*Soft Crates: While easy to manage do not provide adequate security for some dogs (any dog that has the need can chew through them)

*Plastic Crates: Might be the answer for you! Owning “wheels” to move them around can solve the problem of them being awkward to handle.

*Wire Crates: More stable than x-pens and soft crates and easier to carry than a plastic crate but they offer no privacy unless covered.

*Tying the dog: it is not appropriate to tie your dog at any time. Plus, many agility organizations ban tying dogs out. It leaves your dog vulnerable to others, which can promote defensiveness.

*Down stay or “wait there” is the same as tying. Don’t do it. Volunteers that want their dogs near them when they work should use some type of crate.

Ringside: Just Before and After You Compete in the Ring

*Your attention should be on your dog

*Until you are in the ring, your leash should be on your dog at all times.

*Do not line up at the immediate gate entrance when there are more than 5 dogs ahead of you

*If your warm up or cool down includes some unusual highly escalated activity to motivate your dog, don’t do it ring side (this would not include the normal or average encouragement used with food and toys)

*Control your dog at the end of the run by getting them back on a leash ASAP.

Moving About the Trial or Event Grounds

*Your attention should be on your dog

*You may choose to use equipment designed to give you more control than a leash and collar, such as: head collars, soft fabric muzzles, harnesses and sensation harnesses, BUT, be sure to know the rules of the organization if you are at a competition. Some agility organizations ban the use of certain equipment.

*Don’t pass “dog to dog” when possible, put yourself between the approaching dog and your dog

*Walk; don’t run when moving through dog/handler “traffic”.

*Do not let your dog stare at other dogs, learn the difference between watching and staring

*If your dog is staring or being stared at, move away until it stops

*If your dog does become aroused do not stop moving; immediately turn and go the other direction if possible

*Do not try to train the dog once a reaction is in progress, just turn and go the other way. Manage the situation to avoid stressing other dogs in the area as well as diffusing the situation. A training opportunity may or may not be reasonable at that time.

Common Exercise Areas

*Keep your dog on leash until you have a chance to communicate with others that are already there

*Do not let your dog race up to the other dogs without being invited to do so

*If you have a dog with questionable behavior, put that dog on leash ASAP. Consider if that dog should be off leash at all.

*It is not appropriate to play fetch or frisbee in the common areas unless you are alone or far away

*If your dog looks intimidated or over stimulated he probably is, remove him. Talk to a professional about the best way to address that issue

The Nuts and Bolts

Do you run into any one of these situations at trials?

*My dog is easily over stimulated

*My dog needs a lot of space

*I always have to worry about protecting my dog from other dogs

Then we encourage and support you to take these actions:

*Crate in a quiet well-removed covered area or crate from your vehicle if possible

*Tell the Gate Steward or put a <symbol> by your dog's name on the gate sheets if you are ready to run but need to wait away from the gate to keep your dog's brain intact.

*Alert friends and fellow competitors with the key pass phrase "**my dog needs space, thanks!**"

And we suggest the following resources at our events for anyone interested:

*Talk to the trial chair who will always be happy to chat with anyone that is worried about their dog or other dogs having issues.

*Your friends are there for you: let them help notice issues before they bloom, buffer you from other dogs, run interference for you at the gate or at the ring exit.

Asking for help is a success story, not an admission of failure

**Dangerous dog behavior will include, but is not limited to, dog bites to humans or dog bites to dogs committed with intention to harm.*