

RAT Trial Equipment Manager

Best Practices - 2023

Thank you for being the Equipment Manager for a RAT Trial. Because RAT hosts many trials and multiple demos, plus NW league, it's extremely important to coordinate the use of RAT equipment. There is 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 organized to support all of our one-ring trials requiring slatted equipment with 36" contact zones, a few tunnels, wing jumps, spread jumps and teeters. Mama bear is organized with non-slatted equipment, additional tunnels, hoops and barrels. NADAC trials will require both trailers. ASCA trial chairs may choose to use both trailers if non-slatted contacts with 42" contact zones are desired. Demo equipment, extra equipment, fencing, T-posts, T-post driver and extractor, baby gates, canopies and most of the hospitality items, are stored in a locked stall in the Argus Obedience building. The tunnel bags and bladders are also stored in this area, so if you choose not to pay to use Argus' bags and do not want to use RAT's straps, you will need to retrieve RAT's tunnel bags and bladders from the storage stall.

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 to confirm the required equipment and supplies are in the trailer(s) you intend to use.

Packing the trailers:

- 1) Strap and securely tie down all equipment, including contact equipment.
- 2) Please do not drag tunnels over weave bases or store tunnels on top of weave base pegs.
- 3) 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.)
- 4) Don't shove or force wing jumps into storage as it may bend the jump cups.
- 5) ALL of RAT's tunnel holders (bags and straps) are acceptable for all venues.
- 6) See below for specific information about Fencing and Barriers for outdoor trials.
- 7) If you are the Equipment Manager for an outdoor trial, you will need to pack various specialty items that are only used for this trial: shade canopies, umbrellas, sheep fencing and baby gates. Outdoor trial specialty items are in our Argus storage stall and need to be returned there 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 strap items down. Every tunnel should be stored on a tunnel frame, including those that go in the rack in Papa Bear.
- 2) Collect all game supplies, course numbers, etc. and return to their proper totes.
- 3) Pack drills and batteries in bags and return to trailer.
- 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 outdoor trials:

- 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)