

Fast CAT – Summary Description

The Fast CAT Test is a timed 100 yard dash for dogs. It is meant to be fun and healthy activity of interest to any dog owner. The following is a summary of how the event is structured.

How Does Fast CAT Work?

1. Fast CAT is a timed straight race of 100 yards.
2. Dogs run singularly.
3. The dog's time to complete the 100 yard dash is converted into MPHs.
4. A handicap system is applied to a dog's MPH to determine the number of points earned. The handicap system is based on the height of the dog at its withers:
 - 18" or greater = handicap is 1.0.
 - 12" up to less than 18" = handicap is 1.5.
 - Below 12" = handicap is 2.0.
5. Points = MPH multiplied by the dog's handicap
6. Fast CAT titles suffix titles are earned at designated milestones:
 - BCAT = 150 points
 - DCAT = 500 points
 - FCAT = 1,000 points
 - FCAT# = every additional 500 points
7. Top 20 by Breed by Year: The AKC Fast CAT website will feature the Top 20 Fastest Dogs by Breed by Year national standings. The standings will be updated as event results are processed.

Eligibility to Participate

8. Open to all dogs at least 12 months of age that are individually registered/listed with the AKC. This includes dogs recorded in the FSS program, dogs with PAL numbers or dogs enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program. Females in season may not enter. A dog may enter only once per event. (An event is defined by an event number.)
9. An inspection committee shall inspect each entry for lameness, fitness to compete and females in season. If necessary, the inspection committee is responsible for measuring dogs to determine their height at the withers.

The Course/Equipment

10. Safety: Safety is of utmost importance. It is the responsibility of the event committee to insure the safety of the course, the equipment and the conduct of those involved with the event. It is recommended that the event committee run a test dog prior to the start of the event to ensure that the equipment functions properly and all personnel understand their jobs. Prior to moving the lure to position it for the start, the lure operator shall announce "hold your dogs" in order to caution owners.
11. The Start: Dogs may start up to 10 feet behind the starting line.
12. The Finish: The club must provide enough room for a safe run-out area. It is suggested this be a minimum of 30 yards, however this is up to the decision of the club given the specifics of the setting. The club should consider

fencing the end of the course in order to help collect the dogs. It is recommended that an owner or someone familiar with the dog stand at the finish in order to catch the dog once the course has been completed.

13. Timing Devices: The time to complete the 100 yard dash is recorded to the nearest 1/100th of a second (e.g. 9.11). The club may use stopwatches or break-the-beam equipment to obtain the time. If stopwatches are used, there shall be two timers positioned at the finish line. An individual at the start line shall signal with an arm drop the moment the nose of the dog crosses the start line. The timers shall start their stopwatches at the bottom of the arm drop. The timers shall stop their watches when the nose of the dog crosses the finish line. The times from the two stopwatches shall be averaged to determine the recorded time.
14. Lure Equipment: Clubs may use either a drag or continuous loop system. If a continuous loop system is used the “return” string must be set outside of the running course. The lure operator and the lure equipment shall be safely positioned in a manner that does not interfere with the retrieval of the dog at the end of the course.
15. Lure: A white plastic bag or a squawker may be used for the lure.
16. Course/Fencing: The course must be essentially flat. The club should consider fencing the course area; however this is up to the decision of the club given the specifics of the setting. The premium should state if the location of the event is enclosed with fencing.

Huntmaster Has Control of the Course

17. The huntmaster has control of the course. In summary, the huntmaster is in charge of all dogs and handlers on the field, shall ensure handlers understand safe release and retrieval procedures, shall ensure the lure is properly positioned, shall ensure the lure operator, timers and starting line signal person are ready, shall signal the lure operator to start the lure and shall give the verbal signal “tallyho” to release the dog.

Hosting Fast CAT Events/Entering

18. All AKC clubs licensed for Lure Coursing or the Coursing Ability Test will be automatically licensed for Fast CAT. AKC all-breed or group clubs licensed for conformation, obedience or agility may apply to the Performance Events Department (PerformanceEvents@akc.org) to become licensed to hold Fast CAT provided they have the experience, equipment and location to hold a safe event. Clubs will be limited to twelve Fast CAT events per calendar year. A club may not hold more than two Fast CAT events on the same day. A test must start and conclude on the same day.
19. A Fast CAT event can be either a stand-alone event or may be held in conjunction with other AKC events. In all cases the Fast CAT must be applied for as a separate event with its own event number.
20. Entries: All participants must fill out an entry form as provided in the event’s premium list. A club may accept entries prior to the event and/or a club may accept day-of-event entries. The specifics of how entries will be accepted must be explained in the premium.

A club may limit the number of entries it will accept in a Fast CAT event. Additional “stand-by” entries above the limit may be taken at the discretion of the event committee and these dogs will be allowed to run if time permits. Owners of stand-by dogs must be informed that they are on the stand-by list and may choose not to participate.

Complete Regulations governing Fast CAT can be found on the AKC Fast CAT website and will appear in Chapter 16 of the Regulations for Lure Coursing.