

Hey Folks New Event happening at the National Specialty this year!!

## **Barn Hunt**

We will be offering a barn hunt trial. She has composed the following information and here is history and explanation on Barn Hunt, the titles and classes.

Our good Curly friend, Eva Raczka, has graciously agreed to judge and educate us on Barn Hunt!!

Any question Pat Stearns is our Barn Hunt chair!  
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### **Barn Hunt History**

Barn Hunt is an exciting sport based on vermin hunting and requires some of the same skills like climbing, tunneling and finding a live rat. Barn Hunt has MANY differences from Earthdog and terrier events as it allows any dog (including deaf dogs) to compete on an above ground course. Barn Hunt has more in common with scent work than with Earthdog.

Barn Hunt is relatively new as a sport. The Barn Hunt Association was created by a woman with Min Pins. The Min Pin Club of America didn't allow Min Pins in Earth Dog and so after many years of trying (and failing) to have Min Pins accepted to the event- Robin Nuttall decided to create the Barn Hunt Association based on similar events she had seen. Barn Hunt Association events have been official for several years. Barn Hunt is open to any dog that is over 6 months of age and can fit through an 18" wide tunnel and can safely navigate a barn hunt course. There are three height classes (Small <13 inches, Medium 13.1-18 inches and Large >18 inches) Deaf dogs can participate as well as three legged dogs. It's a great sport for dogs that are retired from physically demanding performance sports as well as for dogs that are a bit older and looking for a retirement sport. AKC accepts BHA titles now through the title recognition plan.

### **Basic Rules (read the full version at [www.barnhunt.com](http://www.barnhunt.com))**

- Dogs are staged in blinds (groups) of 5. Dogs wait until the blind until they are called. One dog runs at a time.
- No electronic devices are allowed in the blind, on the way to the ring or in the ring.
- Dogs run naked!
- Collars or harness are allowed to walk dogs in and out of the ring. Buckle, snap, limited slip. No flexis, pinches, chains, e collars or head harnesses.
- Number one and fastest DQ...marking/pooping in the ring. Air them in advance of the run and after the run.
- As you are hunting you are looking for a change in your dog's behavior called the "indication". The judge can't call the dog's indication- only you do!
- When you see that "indication" you tell the judge that tube your dog found a rat tube.
- When you are actively hunting: HANDS OFF. Don't touch the TUBES, the DOG or the STRAW. Don't step over bales or ramps.
- BUT...there are TWO exceptions the start box AND after you call a tube (hopefully the rat)
- Once you CALL RAT:

- You can touch the TUBES to stabilize the tube for the rat
- You can touch the STRAW to help stabilize the tube or restrain the dog
- You can touch the DOG to restrain for tube and rat wrangler safety
- In addition to finding all the rats and only the rats for the level your dog must also:
  - Climb (all feet on a bale/bales)
  - Tunnel (complete the tunnel for that level)
- When you are all done the judge will say congrats or I'm sorry. Leash up and leave the ring.
- Bitches in Season are allowed to compete- they run last and they run in britches.

### **Barn Hunt Courses and Equipment**

- Courses are built with straw or hay
- Instinct uses a prescribed course, but all other levels are the judges choice
- Ramps and Bridges are used to help or make the course more interesting
- Regardless of the course, the start box is where you start
- You can't walk the course in advance
- Three elements to pass: find rat(s), climb, tunnel in the time for the class
- There are 3 PVC tube contents- one is empty, one has litter and one has a live rat in it. As the levels get harder the ratio and number of tubes change.
- There can be multiple tunnels