



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Rattie Gras”

### Happy Ratters Trial

Hosted by City Sniffers Rat Hunt Club

A Division of City Sniffers Dog Sports Training

Open to all breeds and mixed breeds of all sizes, at least six months of age.

**February 21-22, 2026**

**Saturday & Sunday: 8:15 am briefing, 8:30 am start**

**Event Location (do not send entries to this address!):**

**Rex's Place, 2120 Ashland Ave, Evanston, IL 60201**

***Hunt for rats in tubes in an “urban” setting – no straw!***

**Regular/Standard Classes:**

3 Trials over the course of the weekend (2 Saturday, 1 Sunday): offering Ratter (\$20), Happy Ratter (\$20), Expert (\$22), Champion (\$22), and Extraordinaire/Extreme (\$24) Levels.

**Note:** Dogs with a Barn Hunt Association Novice (RATN) title or higher, may begin trialing at the Happy Ratter Level if they prefer. Dogs with a Barn Hunt Association Open (RATO) title or higher may begin trialing at the Expert Level if preferred. This is optional: they may also start at a lower level. There is no “grandfathering” for Games Classes, however – all dogs must start at the beginning level in each game and work their way up.

**Games Classes:**

- 1 Trial on Saturday of Earn a Rat (\$22)
- 1 Trial each on Sunday of Box A Rat (\$20-23), Infestation (\$24), Rat Race (\$23) & Rat Trap (\$18-22)
- Note: This trial is paired with a games league that is running on two Friday nights: 2/13 & 2/20. League premium appended within this document.

**SCROLL DOWN FOR ENTRY LINK**

**Pre-Entry OPENS January 14, 2026 & CLOSES February 14, 2026.**

Entries accepted on a first come/first served basis. Late entries allowed after closing only IF trial is not full: please enter/add runs online by 9 pm the night before when possible. Late/DoS entries add \$5 per run.

### Class Running Order

	AM Set ("T1" in Secreterrier)	Midday Set ("T2" in Secreterrier)	PM Set ("T3" in Secreterrier)
<b>DAY 1 – SATURDAY</b>			
<b>Ring 1</b>	Standard	Standard	Earn a Rat
<b>DAY 2 – SUNDAY</b>			
<b>Ring 1</b>	Standard	Infestation or Rat Race (each team should pick one)	Box a Rat
<b>Ring 2</b>	n/a	n/a	Rat Trap

Trial Chair/Secretary: Megan Renner, [info@citysniffers.org](mailto:info@citysniffers.org), 773-232-0203

Event Committees: TBD

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## Chicago Happy Ratters Games League – Winter 2026

Hosted by City Sniffers Rat Hunt Club  
A Division of City Sniffers Dog Sports Training

Open to all breeds and mixed breeds of all sizes, at least six months of age.

**February 13 & 20, 2026**

**Two Friday nights (play one or the other or both!)**

**6:15 pm briefing, 6:30 pm start**

**Event Location (do not send entries to this address!):**

**Urban Pooch Training & Fitness Center, 5400 N Damen Ave, Chicago, IL**

**Games Classes:**

- 1 Trial each day of A-Maze-ing Rat (\$18), Box A Rat (\$20-22), Dump Hunter (\$18), Rat Trap (\$18-22), Silent Hunt (\$18-22), Ultimate Distance (\$18).
- Note: This trial is paired with a regular 2-day weekend trial that is running 2/21-2/22. Trial premium appended within this document.

## SCROLL DOWN FOR ENTRY LINK

Entries OPEN January 14, 2026 & CLOSE 10 AM the day of each league event.

### Closing dates for withdrawal/refund policy:

- February 8 for the 2/13 trials
- February 15 for the 2/20 trials

Entries accepted on a first come/first served basis. Late entries allowed after closing only IF league is not full: please enter/add runs online by 10 AM the day of. If the form is allowing your entry you have a spot!

**UPDATE: Late fees waived for this event!**

**Special League Award:** 1st-3rd place league medals for top dogs overall (must compete in at least one trial each of all 6 games to be eligible; if play more than one trial of same game, highest score will be counted for league placements)

### League Running Order

	<b>Set 1 ("T1" in Secreterrier)</b>	<b>Set 2 ("T2" in Secreterrier)</b>
<b>Ring 1</b>	Silent Hunt	Box a Rat
<b>Ring 2</b>	Rat Trap	Ultimate Distance
<b>Ring 3</b>	Dump Hunter	A-Maze-ing Rat

**Trial Chair/Secretary:** Megan Renner, [info@citysniffers.org](mailto:info@citysniffers.org), 773-232-0203

**Event Committees:** TBD

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### ENTRY INFORMATION

Entries are accepted online only– no mail, drop-off, phone, OR email entries. Dogs must have a Happy Ratters registration number: register for a \$22 per dog lifetime fee at <https://www.happyratters.com/newdog-registration/>.

**How-To Video – Register Your Dog:** <https://youtu.be/YQxbCmTQ6u8?si=2siBBtKDjI4XpNdf>

Exhibitors are responsible for complete & accurate information on entry forms. **Always check your confirmation!**

**Entry Limits & Wait List:** Entry will be closed when judging limits are reached. Entries received after that point will be waitlisted. If any entries are withdrawn, waitlisted entries will be processed in the order received. Any prepaid waitlisted entry not accepted into the trial will be refunded.

**Withdrawals & Refunds:** Competitors who withdraw prior to the pre-entry closing date will receive a refund of all entry fees, minus any non-refundable credit card transaction fees (if applicable). There are no refunds for entries withdrawn after the pre-entry closing date, regardless of reason. Entry fees will not be refunded in the event that a dog and/or owner/handler is absent or disqualified, excused, or barred from competition by action of the Event Committee. No entry fee will be refunded if the trial cannot open or be completed by reasons of riots, civil disturbances, fire, acts of God, public emergency, an act of a public enemy, or any other cause beyond the control of the Event Committee.

## **SITE INFORMATION**

Trial grounds will consist of the entire buildings and surrounding parking lots, green areas, and sidewalks. FIREARMS ARE NOT ALLOWED OUTSIDE OF YOUR CAR. Smoking and/or vaping are not allowed on trial grounds.

The blinds and rings are inside a climate controlled building with epoxy flooring. There is limited indoor crating space; competitors may also crate out of their cars in designated parking areas.

**Parking:** Street parking is available on all streets immediately around the building. Depending on final entry numbers additional parking lot space may be rented across and/or down the street from the building. Details and final instructions will be included in the Final Confirmation.

**Dog exercise areas:** Designated potty areas are the grassy areas on the streets around the building. Please pick up after your dog and dispose of waste in appropriate containers outside the building. Any exhibitor failing to follow these rules may be excused without benefit of refund if the Event Committee deems the exhibitor to be in violation of this requirement per Happy Ratters regulations.

## **EXHIBITOR INFORMATION**

Further scheduling details will be emailed to all competitors after trial closes and actual number of entries in each class is known. Dogs will not run in any particular height order. Multiple dogs handled by same person will be separated into different blinds. Judge of Record and Event Official dogs may be judged prior to official start time or as first and/or last blind(s) of a class.

Happy Ratters Rules can be obtained online in the form of a PDF file at <http://www.happyratters.com/rules/>. Exhibitors are responsible for knowing the rules.

**Awards:** Ribbons will be awarded for all qualifying runs, placements, and titles, as well as the following special awards:

- Judge's Choice: One team chosen per trial day by the panel of judges.
- Perfect Sniff Day: Teams earning 100+ points in all runs of a trial day (must enter all runs offered).
- Fastest Hunt of the Day: Team with the fastest run time of a trial day.
- Sloth: 100+ point runs completed in last 1-3 seconds or less of max course time—quantity varies.
- IDOT BBB “Bridge & Burrow Bonus”: Team with the most B&Bs performed during the course of a Standard run.

## **Fun Facts about Happy Ratters**

- Treats are allowed in the ring (faults for dropped treats = points off, not an NQ).
- Food, toy, petting and/or verbal praise are allowed and encouraged.
- Deaf dogs, 3 legged dogs and dogs in wheelchairs are allowed.
- Points are cumulative from the start of that dog's runs in that particular level. Don't need perfect run to Q and earn points – see rules for each level.

## **Class & Game Descriptions**

For Regular/Standard classes, dogs with a Barn Hunt Association Novice (RATN) title or higher, may begin trialing at the Happy Ratter Level if they prefer. Dogs with a Barn Hunt Association Open (RATO) title or higher may begin trialing at the Expert Level if preferred. This is optional: they may also start at a lower level.

- **Ratter:** 1 rat, Time: 2:30
- **Happy Ratter:** 2 rats, Time: 3:00
- **Expert:** 3 rats, Time: 3:30
- **Champion:** 4 rats, Time: 4:00
- **Extraordinaire/Extreme:** unknown # of rats 1-5, Time: 4:30

For Games classes, all dogs start at the beginning level in each and work their way up. No litter tubes in games!

- **A-MAZE-ing Rat:** NEW GAME! Xpens provide ~ 3 ft wide corridor to hunt through a maze
- **Box A Rat:** search course of multiple layers of boxes (5 levels: increasing rats)
- **Dump Hunter:** handler stays behind distance line (always 1 rat; distance increases w/ levels)
- **Earn A Rat:** must perform Bridge or Burrow to earn right to hunt each rat (3 rats; Time: 2:30)
- **Infestation:** bonus points if call “Finish” correctly (unknown # of rats 2-6; Time: 3:30)
- **Rat Race:** game of speed, find each rat in 30-35 seconds (4 rats)
- **Rat Trap:** search field of many tubes hidden in bags; only empty & rat tubes (5 levels: increasing rats)
- **Silent Hunt:** handler stays still/silent, judge calls the find (3 levels: # of rats matches level)
- **Ultimate Distance:** handler stays **seated** behind distance line (always 1 rat; distance increases w/ levels)

**Collars and Leashes:** Prong, choke, pinch, and/or electric collars are not allowed in the staging area or on the way from staging area to the ring. Flexi/retractable leashes are not allowed inside the building. Dogs MUST run “naked,” without a leash, collar, or harness. Dogs should be brought to the ring with collars/harnesses that can be easily and quickly removed and replaced. All dogs must be on leash at all times except when in the ring or secured in their car or crate.

**Bitches in Season (BiS):** BiS are eligible for entry but will be required to be kept separately from all other dogs and will run with panties on in a separate blind at the end of any classes entered. If bringing a bitch in season, please inform [info@citysniffers.org](mailto:info@citysniffers.org) prior to the trial and inform all exhibitors at the judge’s briefing. ***Remember your dog must wear panties at all times at the show site (except when being taken out to potty.)*** We will direct you to the BiS potty area, please come to the Trial Secretary’s table before unloading your dog.

It is expressly understood that exhibitors alone are responsible for the behavior of their dog(s) and/or children. Any exhibitor whose dog(s) and/or children create unnecessary disturbances or repeatedly engage in unsafe or disruptive behavior may, at the discretion of the Event Committee, be asked to leave with no refund of any fees paid.

The safety of the dogs is our primary concern. By entering this trial, exhibitors acknowledge that they are familiar with the rules and regulations of this sport, and that their dogs are familiar with and able to perform all obstacles safely.

**[CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE – TRIAL 2/21/-2/22](#)**

**[CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE – LEAGUE 2/13 & 2/20](#)**

**[ALTERNATE ENTRY FORM LEAGUE ONLY \(via Jotform\)](#)**

First time entering at Happy Ratters Trial?? Please watch these videos first to guide your navigation of the process:

1) [Registering a New Dog](#)

2) [Secreterrier Trial Entry Form](#)

## **Emergency Information**

**BluePearl Skokie – Emergency:** Mon-Sun: 10 am-10 pm (please call ahead before visiting)

3735 Dempster St

Skokie, IL 60076

(847) 673-9110

**BluePearl Northfield – Open 24/7**

820 Frontage Rd

Northfield, IL 60093

(847) 564-5775

**Pet-Friendly Hotels** – please call to verify any pet policy details noted below

**Red Roof Morton Grove, IL**

9424 Waukegan Rd, Morton Grove, IL 60053

(847) 965-6400

<https://www.redroof.com/property/il/morton-grove/rri937>

**Holiday Inn & Suites Chicago North Shore**

5300 W Touhy Ave, Skokie, IL 60077

(847) 679-8900

<https://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/skokie/chisk/hoteldetail>