Holly Jolly Hunt

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.

December 5-6, 2026

8:15 am briefing, 8:30 am start

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

City Sniffers Chicago, 1802 W Berteau Ave, Unit 114-115, Chicago, IL

Hunt for rats in tubes in an "urban" setting – no straw!

Regular/Standard Classes:
4 Trials over the course of the weekend (2 Saturday, 2 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 each of A-MAZE-ing Rat ($18-22), Box A Rat ($20-24), Double Dutch ($22-24), Earn a Rat ($22), Infestation ($24), Rat Trap ($18-22), Road Rage ($20-24), Silent Hunt ($18-22), & Village Rats ($20-24).

CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE

Pre-Entry OPENS **Wednesday, October 14** & CLOSES **Friday, November 27.**

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 (Judging Assignments TBA in Final Confirmation)

	AM Set ("T1")	**Midday Set ("T2")**	**PM Set ("T3")**
DAY 1 – SATURDAY			
Ring 1	Earn A Rat & Double Dutch	Standard	Standard
Ring 2	Silent Hunt	Box A Rat	Rat Trap
DAY 2 – SUNDAY			
Ring 1	Standard	Standard	Infestation & Double Dutch
Ring 2	Village Rats	Road Rage Rats	Maze Rat

**Where Double Dutch is offered it will play in the same ring as the other game listed, after the rest of that set has run.*

Trial Chair/Secretary: Megan Renner, info@citysniffers.org, 773-232-0203 (phone only, no texts)

Judging Panel: Kristine Cwik, Megan Renner, Marjorie Thomas

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 Secreterrier.com. (The trial entry process will prompt you to "Purchase Number.")

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 building and surrounding parking areas, 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 foam or rubber matting over concrete flooring. There will be ample indoor crating space in a neighboring unit across the hall. Competitors may also crate out of their cars; note, however, that this is an urban area with primarily street parking. Parking spaces directly outside the building cannot be guaranteed.

Parking: See attached parking map.

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 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, but they ***will*** run in a modified level order depending on which class in each set requires the greatest change between levels. Multiple dogs handled by same person will be separated into different blinds. Judge and Event Official dogs may be judged prior to official start time, after official end 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 https://happyratters.com/rule-book. 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.
- Happiest Ratter: One team chosen per trial day by panel of judges.
- The Underdog: Teams chosen by panel of judges, e.g., most improved, unexpected team/breed, etc.
- Golden Years Luminary: Senior dog teams chosen by panel of judges.

Fun Facts about Happy Ratters

- Treats are allowed in the ring (faults for dropped treats = points off, not an NQ).
- Food, (silent) toys, petting and/or verbal praise are allowed and encouraged.
- 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. Alternately, 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)
- **Double Dutch**: team game where one dog honors (is not working) while the other dog hunts
- **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 Trap**: search field of many tubes hidden in bags; only empty & rat tubes (5 levels: increasing rats)
- **Road Rage Rats**: course of many wheeled items; each has a tube but only one is rat
- **Silent Hunt**: handler stays still/silent, judge calls the find (3 levels: # of rats matches level)
- **Village Rats**: search course of fabric pop-up or plastic playhouses and tents (5 levels: increasing rats)

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 on trial grounds. Dogs may run "naked" or wear a flat buckle or snap clip collar with no hanging tags or collar plates attached. Martingale style collars are not allowed. Dogs should be brought to the ring with equipment that can be easily and quickly removed and replaced. Dogs must be on leash at all times except when in the ring or secured in a 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 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

First time entering at Happy Ratters Trial? Check out our Happy Ratters Trial FAQs!

Emergency Information

MedVet Chicago – Open 24/7
3305 N California Ave
Chicago, IL 60618
(773) 281-7110

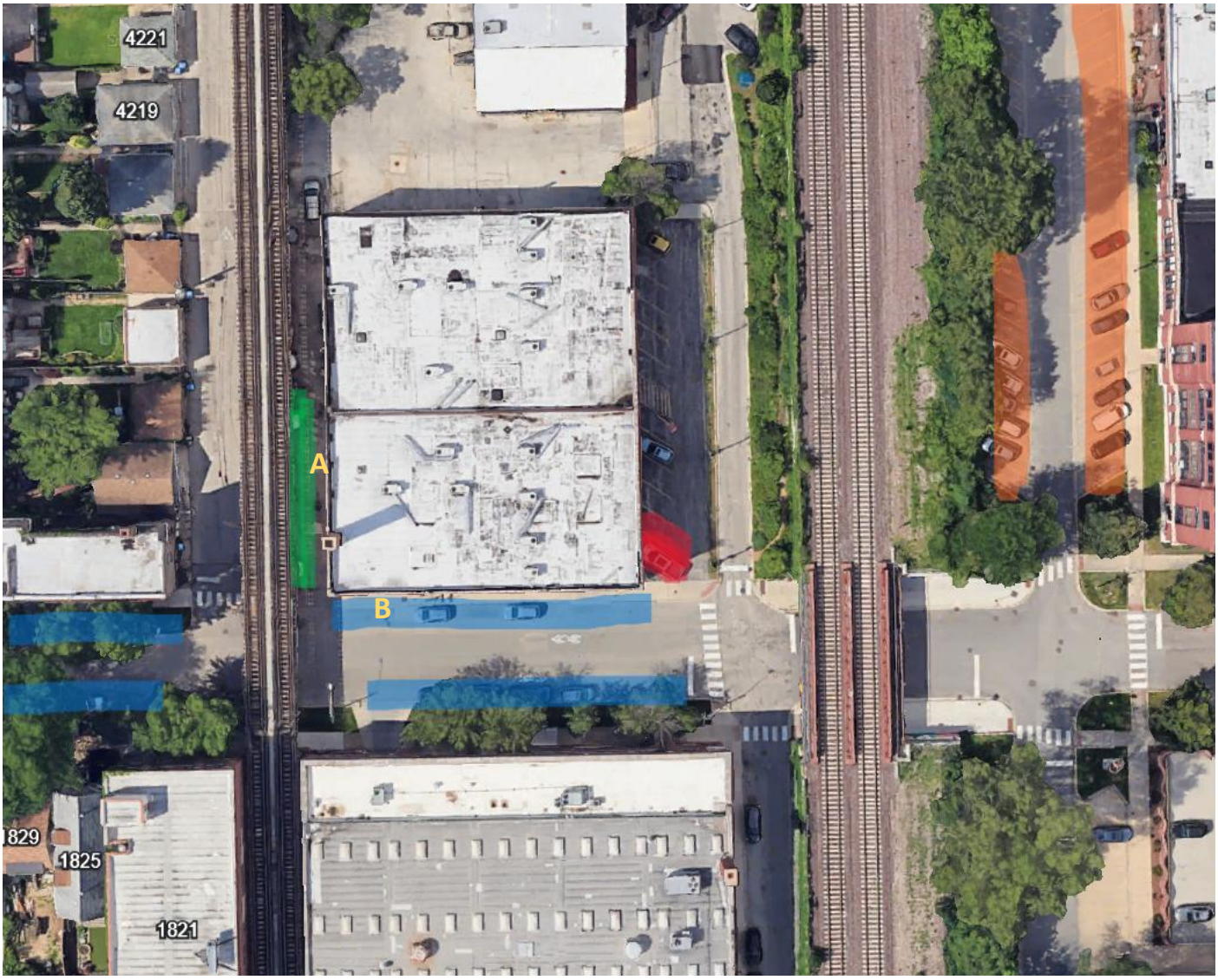
VEG Lincoln Park – Open 24/7
755 W North Ave
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 847-8838

Premier Veterinary Group – Chicago – Open 24/7
3927 W Belmont Ave
Chicago, IL 60618
(773) 516-5800

PARKING KEY

Red = City Sniffers' 2 owned spots in lot on east side of building (Spots 1 & 2, marked with signs)
Green = Paid parking under El tracks right outside our door (*$3.50 for 2 hours; instructions below)
Blue = Free street parking along Berteau (parallel)
Orange = Free street parking along Ravenswood (angled spaces)

ENTRY/EXIT DOORS: yellow lettering – please do not loiter near doors; either inside or out!
Door A = City Sniffers entrance door, on west side of building under El tracks
Door B = front door to building w/ intercom access (DO NOT USE!)



**To pay for parking under the El tracks, go to Parking.com (or download their app). If you search for our address (1802 W Berteau) and then choose the one labelled: "Chicago Parking - CTA Brown Line Berteau to Ravenswood, 1850 West Berteau Avenue" – Parking Zone 51819."*