



## **“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 22-23, 2025**

**Saturday & Sunday: 9 am start, play up to 6 runs per day**

**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! Classes are run back to back in two sets: three in the morning and three in the afternoon. Less time waiting in the blind!***

### **Regular/Standard Classes:**

3 Trials: offering Ratter (\$20), Happy Ratter (\$20), Expert (\$22), & Champion (\$22) Levels. Extraordinaire Level may be added if requested.

**Note:** 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 Ratter or Happy Ratter Level.

### **Games Classes:**

- 1 Trial each day of Silent Hunt (\$18) and Dump Hunter (\$18) – offering Levels 1 & 2
- Games on Saturday only: Rat Trap (\$18) – offering Levels 1-3
- Games on Sunday only: A-Maze-ing Rat Level 1 (\$18) & Earn a Rat (\$22)

*Late entries add \$5 per run. Move-ups allowed both trial to trial and day to day.*

**Judges:**

Kim Dykstra, New Berlin, IL

Megan Renner, Chicago, IL

**Class Running Order**

	AM Set	PM Set
<b>DAY 1 – SATURDAY</b>		
<b>Ring 1</b>	Standard T1	Standard T2
<b>Ring 2</b>	Silent Hunt T1 (line format)	Dump Hunter T1 (line format)
<b>Ring 3</b>	Rat Trap T1 (w/ gift bags)	Rat Trap T2 (w/ gift bags)
<b>DAY 2 – SUNDAY</b>		
<b>Ring 1</b>	Standard T3	Earn A Rat T1
<b>Ring 2</b>	Dump Hunter T2 (circle format)	Silent Hunt T2 (circle format)
<b>Ring 3</b>	A-MAZE-ing Rat T1	A-MAZE-ing Rat T2

**Entry CLOSES Monday, February 17, 2025.**

Entries accepted on a first come/first served basis. Late entries and added runs allowed after closing date only  
IF trial is not full: late entries must enter online by 5 pm the night before the runs. Email confirmations may not be sent for late entries.

**[CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE](#)****Trial Chair/Secretary:** Megan Renner, [info@citysniffers.org](mailto:info@citysniffers.org), 773-232-0203**Event Committee:** TBD**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 \$15 per dog lifetime fee at [www.happyratters.com](http://www.happyratters.com).

Exhibitors are responsible for complete, accurate and legible information on entry forms; illegible or incomplete entries cannot be entered. **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 contacted 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). Competitors who withdraw after the pre-entry closing date receive a refund only if a waitlisted entry replaces the withdrawn entry. 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 lots, green areas, and sidewalks of the Rex's Place building @ 2120 Ashland Ave in Evanston, IL. 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 ample indoor crating space; competitors may also crate out of their cars in designated parking areas.

The building will open one hour before judging start time and close one hour after the last dog runs.

**Directions:** Map your best driving route here: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/6pdoLnC8dWqrVYyd7>

**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; there are also multiple parks/fields within a one-two block radius. 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**

Check-in begins at 8:15 AM each day; general & judge briefings will start at 8:45 AM. 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](#). 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 six runs of a trial day (in all four runs if a partial Friday).
- 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 Happy Ratters classes, 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 Ratter or Happy Ratter 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
- **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)
- **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)

**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](#)**

## **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>