



3rd Annual Summer Rattin' 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.

July 17-19, 2026

8:00 AM start all 3 days!!

3 Rings ~ play up to 6 runs per day

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

Town & Country Kennel Club, 2507 Fox Creek Rd, Bloomington, IL 61704

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.

Regular/Standard Classes: 4 Trials over the course of the weekend (1 Friday, 2 Saturday, 1 Sunday). Offering Ratter (\$20), Happy Ratter (\$20), Expert (\$22), Champion (\$22), & Extraordinaire/Extreme (\$24) Levels.

Games Classes (see schedule below of which games will run which days):

- Box A Rat (\$18-22) – Level 1-5
- Dump Hunter (\$18) – Levels 1-3
- Earn a Rat (\$21)
- Infestation (\$23)
- Rat Race (\$22)
- Rat Trap (\$18-22) – Levels 1-5
- Silent Hunt (\$18-20) – Levels 1-3
- Ultimate Distance (\$18) – Levels 1-3
- ***NEW*** Village Rats (\$18-20) – Levels 1-3

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE](#)

Entry OPENS June 14, 2026 & CLOSSES July 10, 2026.

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

First time entering at Happy Ratters Trial??

Please watch this video first to guide your navigation of the Secreterrier entry form:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_W778eoGZU

Judges:

Deb Auer, Springfield, IL; *Connie Austin*, Rochester, IL; *Dyan Dalby*, Louisville, KY; *Kim Dykstra*, New Berlin, IL; *Elisha Edge*, St. Louis, MO; *Ule James*, Rochester, IL; *Megan Renner*, Chicago, IL

Class Running Order (Judging Assignments TBA in Final Confirmation)

	AM Set ("T1" in Secreterrier)	PM Set ("T2" in Secreterrier)
DAY 1 – FRIDAY		
Ring 1	Rat Race	Standard – low to high levels
Ring 2	Dump Hunter	Ultimate Distance
Ring 3	Village Rats	Box A Rat
DAY 2 – SATURDAY		
Ring 1	Standard – high to low levels	Standard – low to high levels
Ring 2	Silent Hunt	Village Rats
Ring 3	Box A Rat	Rat Trap
DAY 3 – SUNDAY		
Ring 1	Standard – high to low levels	Earn A Rat
Ring 2	Village Rats	Ultimate Distance/Dump Hunter
Ring 3	Rat Trap	Infestation

Trial Chair: Mary Lantis **Trial Secretary:** Megan Renner

Onsite Scorekeepers: Laura Sime (Fri/Sat) & Megan Renner (Sun)

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>.

Exhibitors are responsible for complete and 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 accepted 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 lots, green areas, and sidewalks of the TCKC building @ 2507 Fox Creek Rd in Bloomington, 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 floors of rubber matting. 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/Parking:

- From North, West & East: From I-74/I-55, take Exit 134B to S. Veterans Pkwy.
- From South: From I-55, take Exit 157B to S. Veterans Pkwy.

Turn left onto Fox Creek Road. Go 8/10ths of a mile to TCKC (two beige and brown steel buildings on right). Overnight parking at the site is NOT permitted.

Dog exercise areas: The designated potty area is the grassy area on the west side of 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

Check-in begins at 7:15 AM; general & judge briefings held at 7:45 AM.

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 <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 six runs of a trial day.
- Fastest Hunt: 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.
- Additional special/unique medals TBD at judges’ discretion 😊

Fun Facts about Happy Ratters – see class and game descriptions listed below

- Treats are allowed in the ring (faults for dropped treats = points off, not an NQ). Food, (silent) toys, petting and/or verbal praise are also 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.
- For Regular/Standard Happy Ratters classes, dogs with a BHA Novice title or higher, may begin trialing at the Happy Ratter Level if they prefer, and dogs with a BHA 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:** 1-5 rats (unknown #), Time: 4:30
- For Games classes, all dogs start at beginning level in each and work their way up. No litter tubes!
 - **Box A Rat:** 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:** course has 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)
 - **Village Rats:** search for rats in fabric pop-up 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 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. Entry fees for bitches that come into season will be refunded if you wish to withdraw before the closing date. After the closing date, entry fees will not be refunded. 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](#)

Emergency Information: Pet

Animal Emergency Clinic of McLean County
118 Greenwood Ave, Bloomington, IL 61704 (309) 828-7722
<https://animalemergencybloomington.com>

Pet-Friendly Hotels – please call to verify pet policies & fees

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Bloomington-Normal West, IL
923 Maple Hill Rd, Bloomington, IL 61704 (309) 834-1770
<https://www.choicehotels.com/en-uk/illinois/bloomington/country-inn-suites-hotels/il727>

Eastland Suites Hotel & Conference Ctr, Trademark by Wyndham
1801 Eastland Dr, Bloomington, IL 61704 (309) 319-9118
<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/trademark/bloomington-illinois/eastland-suites-hotel-conference-ctr-trademark/overview>

Quality Inn & Suites Bloomington University Area
1803 E Empire St, Bloomington, IL 61704 (309) 205-3388
<https://www.choicehotels.com/en-uk/illinois/bloomington/quality-inn-hotels/il247>

Ramada Limited Bloomington
919 Maple Hill Rd, Bloomington, IL 61704 (309) 319-6998
<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/ramada/bloomington-illinois/ramada-limited-and-suites-bloomington/overview>