



3rd Annual “Rat or Treat” Happy Ratters Trial

hosted by

City Sniffers Rat Hunt Club

A Division of City Sniffers Dog Sports Training

Permission has been granted by Happy Ratters to hold this trial. Open to all breeds and mixed breeds of all sizes, at least six months of age.

October 23-25, 2026 * 8 am start**

3 Rings ~ 6+ Judges ~ play up to 6 runs per day

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

City Sniffers Springfield, 800 N MacArthur Blvd, Springfield, IL 62702

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 (\$24) & Extreme (\$24) Levels.

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

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

CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE

Pre-Entry OPENS August 23, 2026 & CLOSES October 16, 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.

Trial Chair/Secretary: Megan Renner, info@citysniffers.org

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 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 If any entries are withdrawn, waitlisted entries will be accepted in the order received.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 and sidewalks of the City Sniffers building @ 800 N MacArthur Blvd. FIREARMS ARE NOT ALLOWED OUTSIDE OF YOUR CAR. Smoking and/or vaping are not allowed on trial grounds. The building will open one hour before judging start time and close one hour after the last dog runs.

All three rings are inside a heated building with floors of rubber matting over hardwood. Indoor crating is in the blue matted room in the northeast corner of the building; competitors may also crate out of their cars in designated parking areas. This trial will utilize a rolling blind staged using **both** the 20' x 10' tents inside the main room. The East side loading dock may also be used as a staging area/blind as needed.

Directions/Parking: From SR-97, turn north on MacArthur Blvd. You'll pass Duncan Park and the Linde building on the right, then look for the big red brick building also on the right. The entrance doors are on the north, south and east sides of the building – the front door of building (west side) is NOT in use!

PLEASE REVIEW PARKING MAP TO BE SENT WITH FINAL CONFIRMATION. There IS sufficient space for RV parking: please email Trial Secretary if considering bringing an RV.

Class Running Order (Judging Assignments TBA in Final Confirmation)

	AM Set ("T1" in Secreterrier)	PM Set ("T2" in Secreterrier)
DAY 1 – FRIDAY		
Ring 1	Earn A Rat & Double Dutch*	Standard – low to high levels
Ring 2	Box A Rat	Village Rats
Ring 3	Rat Race	Rat Trap
DAY 2 – SATURDAY		
Ring 1	Standard – high to low levels	Standard – low to high levels
Ring 2	Silent Hunt	Ultimate Distance
Ring 3	Rat Trap	Road Rage Rats
DAY 3 – SUNDAY		
Ring 1	Standard – high to low levels	Infestation & Double Dutch*
Ring 2	Dump Hunter	A-MAZE-ing Rat
Ring 3	Road Rage Rats	Village Rats

**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. Note, however, that you can only enter a maximum of six runs per day, so if you enter Double Dutch you may have to forego one of the other classes that day...*

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.

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE](#)

Awards: Ribbons are awarded for all qualifying runs, placements, and titles, as well as these special awards:

- Judge's Choice: One team chosen per trial day by panel of judges.
- Perfect Sniff Day: Teams earning 100+ points in all six runs of a trial day.
- 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.
- 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!
 - **A-MAZE-ing Rat:** NEW GAME! Xpens provide ~ 3 ft wide corridor to hunt through a maze
 - **Box A Rat:** 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
 - **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)
 - **Road Rage Rat:** 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)
 - **Ultimate Distance:** handler stays **seated** behind 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 may run “naked” OR may 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. 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.

Emergency Information: Pet

Animal Emergency Clinic of Springfield: 821 S Durkin Dr, Springfield IL, 62704
(217) 698-0870 <https://aecspringfield.com/>

Emergency Information: Human

HSHS St. John's Hospital: 800 E Carpenter St, Springfield IL	(217) 544-6464
Memorial Medical Center: 701 N 1st St, Springfield IL	(217) 788-3000

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

Candlewood Suites Springfield IL (an IHG Hotel)

2501 Sunrise Dr, Springfield IL 62703 (217) 522-5100
<https://www.ihg.com/candlewood/hotels/us/en/springfield/spiwx/hoteldetail>

*All pets allowed; \$150 pet fee per stay

Drury Inn & Suites Springfield, IL

3180 S Dirksen Pkwy, Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 529-3900
<https://www.druryhotels.com/locations/springfield-il/drury-inn-and-suites-springfield-il>

*Daily fee of \$50 per room plus tax. Limit of two pets per room with a combined weight of 80 pounds.

Hampton Inn & Suites Springfield-Southwest

2300 Chuckwagon Dr, Springfield, IL 62711 (217) 793-7670
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/spiilh-hampton-suites-springfield-southwest/>

*1-4 night stay \$50; 5+ night stay \$75; 2 pets max; dog or cat only

La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Springfield, IL

1121 Lejune Dr, Springfield IL 62703 (217) 697-5686
<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta/springfield-illinois/la-quinta-springfield-il/overview>

*Please call to verify pet policies & fees.

Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Springfield, IL

2636 Sunrise Dr, Springfield IL 62703 (217) 718-6842
<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/microtel/springfield-illinois/microtel-inn-suites-springfield-il/overview>

*Please call to verify pet policies & fees.

Quality Inn & Suites Springfield Southwest near I-72

3442 Freedom Drive, Springfield, IL 62704 (217) 787-2250
<https://www.choicehotels.com/illinois/springfield/quality-inn-hotels/il083>

*Pet charge of \$10 plus tax per pet per night. A maximum of 2 pets per room.

Red Roof Inn Springfield IL

3200 Singer Ave, Springfield IL 62703 (217) 753-4302
<https://www.redroof.com/property/il/springfield/rri040>

*Pets stay free, 1 pet allowed max 80 pounds.

Residence Inn (by Marriott) Springfield South

2915 Stanford Ave, Springfield IL 62703 (217) 527-1100
<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/spiri-residence-inn-springfield-south/overview/>

*Non-refundable cleaning charge of \$150 per room per stay applies; maximum pet weight: 75 pounds