

CARTING RULES FOR THE AMERICAN ROTTWEILER CLUB

Approved by ARC Board of Directors: 11/13/07

PURPOSE

The American Rottweiler Club (ARC) has created this carting competition to showcase the natural abilities of the purebred Rottweiler when working in a cart-pulling environment with his/her handler. The Rottweiler was valued historically for its cart-pulling abilities. These carting exercises are designed to demonstrate the dog's inherent ability aided by trained skills that exhibit a team effort by both dog and handler.

GUIDELINES

Although carting is not an American Kennel Club (AKC) activity, The American Rottweiler Club requires that you be familiar with AKC Rules and Regulations. All American Kennel Club Dog Show Regulations, the ARC Carting Test Rules, and the Constitution and By-laws of the American Rottweiler Club shall apply to all persons and dogs except as these Carting Committee Regulations direct otherwise. A copy of each of these shall be at the site of the Carting Test and available to the judges, handlers, and Carting Test personnel. It is the responsibility of each handler to be familiar with these materials prior to the Carting Test. Be aware that any dog that attacks or attempts to attack any person during a carting test must be excused and a notation will be made to that effect. Particular attention must also be paid to the following AKC rule adopted in October, 2004.

"Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event, resulting in an injury, and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified. When the dog is disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of The American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated."

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- a. Age: The Carting Test may be entered by dogs one year of age or older on the day of the Carting Test.
- b. Bitches in Season: Bitches in season will be allowed to compete after all other dogs have finished being evaluated.
- c. Dogs That May Not Compete: No dog owned or co-owned by the test secretary or the appointed Carting Test Judge or any of their immediate family members can compete in the Carting Test at which such person officiates.

CLASS DIVISIONS AND TITLES

A dog receiving a qualifying score at any level shall be deemed to have earned the title for that level. You can enter at any level. A CS dog must go to CI or CX after obtaining a CS title. A CI dog can stay competing at the CI level or go to the CX level. The CX dog can continue to compete at the CX level after obtaining a CX title

Titles are as follows:

- CS Carting Started (on lead)
- CI Carting Intermediate (off lead)
- CX Carting Excellent (driving)

REASONS FOR FAILURE OR REMOVAL/EXCUSAL

1. Dog behaves in an aggressive manner toward people or other dogs - EXCUSAL
2. Dog is out of control and a danger to itself and others - EXCUSAL
3. Dog panics at any time - EXCUSAL
4. Dog is clearly uncomfortable with or fearful of the cart - EXCUSAL
5. Dog struggles to pull the cart - EXCUSAL
6. Any handler discipline, or harshness of a physical or verbal nature towards the dog at any time - EXCUSAL
7. Dog defecates or urinates on the course - EXCUSAL
8. Dog does not complete any exercise - FAILURE
9. Dog breaks stay command during long down stay - FAILURE
10. Dog leaves the course - FAILURE

JUDGES RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF DECISION DURING A CARTING TEST

The judge has the right to remove or excuse any competitor during any part of the test. The Judge also has the right to deny participation in a Carting Test due to ill fitting equipment, physical unsoundness, or unruliness of dog or handler.

The success and integrity of the carting program is dependent upon the judges' knowledge, ethics and common sense. It is the judge's responsibility to be positioned so that total attention can be given to the dog and handler for the entire time it is present for judging,

including the down stay, and to score each dog/handler team in an impartial manner. The judge shall not at any time relinquish his/her responsibilities to any other person.

HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

The handler/competitor is responsible for providing certain types of equipment. The handler will make sure the harness and cart fits the dog properly. The hook-up should not allow the cart to run up and bump the dog during the course exercises. The weight should be placed, balanced, and tied in place by the handler. Assistance may be given to those handlers who cannot load or unload the 40 pound weight. The handler accepts full responsibility of ensuring any load placed on the cart can be easily managed by the dog(s) and that the dog does not appear to be under duress attempting to move the cart. The handler will make sure the weight is properly balanced. Any dog that appears to be negatively impacted with the cart weight can be excused by the judge at any point in the course. Equipment provided by handlers is as follows:

1. Two wheel (preferred) or four wheel cart
2. Shafts must be a part of the cart apparatus
3. Harness (usually swash or breast plate style)
4. Choke chain or buckle collar (no pinch or prong or electric collars will be allowed on the grounds)
5. Head halter use restricted to driving and then only if fitted with reins
6. Minimum of four foot lead if at CS level
7. Reins if at CX level
8. Ties to secure 40 pound weight at CS or CI level

Note: No crops or whips shall be allowed at any time.

DESCRIPTION OF A CARTING TEST

The competition will be open to on-lead, off-lead, and driving (handler seated) carting dogs. The entry can be a single dog or team (two dogs). The courses will be the same, but the entries will compete within their own division (single on-lead, team on-lead, single off-lead, team off-lead, etc.) Any type of wagon or cart is acceptable, as long as the dog(s) can handle the size and weight of the cart comfortably and easily over the course and negotiate all elements. The handler assumes all responsibility to ensure that his/her individual cart can negotiate the course. The course will not be modified to accommodate larger carts. A two wheel vehicle is preferred due to its maneuverability. Talking to the dog and verbal praise are allowed during the exercises. Physical praise such as petting or pats may be given between exercises and are limited to touching with the hands only. No other part of the handler's body should touch the dog. All entries except driving will have their carts weighted with an additional 40 pounds. The 40 pound weight will be provided by the Course Director. Emphasis is on precision, not speed. Failure to negotiate any one element on the course will result in a non-qualifying score despite an over-all score of 170 or above.

A carting dog should move the cart with pride and eagerness yet listen to direction from the handler. The purpose of this competition is to give handlers and their carting dogs a chance to exhibit these wonderful skills and abilities.

Definitions:

- a. Dog: applies to dogs of both sexes.
- b. Team: two dogs hitched to one cart. Two dogs competing as a team need not be owned by the same person or by the handler. A separate entry form must be completed for each dog on a team entry and then stapled together.

COURSE DESIGN

Course Size: The size of the course will be a minimum of 375 feet from start to finish (this is the actual distance dog and handler must cover to complete the course.) The course must be large enough to incorporate all required elements and exercises. The only specific measurements are the 9 feet between pylons of the serpentine exercise, and the 3 foot backing exercise. Reasonable distances between course exercises will be determined on an individual basis to allow the judge to see and evaluate the handler and dog(s) without excessive walking. There should be enough distance between course exercises to allow a dog(s) and handler to move easily at a trot.

Course Terrain: Course terrain will be dependent on what is available. Level terrain is preferred with some very moderate sloping allowed if the area is restricted. Hard surface is preferred, grass is acceptable. Weather is to be considered as hot pavement, and wet soggy grass are both unsuitable for this competition. Heavy, soft footing and inclines are to be avoided. The course will not be in a roped-off ring environment.

Course Elements (required): Please note that each required element must be present and may not be combined. (example: even though a stop occurs as part of the back up and the gate that does not substitute for the stop element required below.)

1. Harnessing, first exercise (hooking to cart only)
2. Load 40 pound weight after harnessing; unload prior to last exercise (down/stay)
3. Left turn (90 degrees)
4. Right turn (90 degrees)
5. Stop

6. Fast
7. Slow
8. Back (3 feet)
9. Circle left (360 degrees)
10. Circle right (360 degrees)
11. Serpentine, minimum of five pylons, nine feet apart
12. One distraction (i.e., pedestrian walking a dog, bicyclist passing, ball thrown near dog)
13. Gate (four foot wide opening)

Group Down Stay:

Overview: The dogs demonstrate their ability to remain on a down stay, while hitched. This is a group exercise with no more than eight (8) dogs per group and no less than four (4) feet between carts. Classes may be combined as appropriate for space and to accommodate dogs who might be sharing a cart. If there are to be multiple groups, effort should be made to see that they are as equal as possible in number. The Group Exercises shall be performed either first, before the individual exercises, or after all individual exercises are completed, at the discretion of the sponsor and in consultation with the judge.

Dogs enter the designated area for the down stay hitched to their carts and may be gently guided into position. Handler's armbands shall be placed to the left of the cart and weighted down by the leash, which has been removed. The judge will give the command to handlers to down their dog. The stay command and/or signal are to be given once and no other commands or signals may be given during the remainder of this exercise. The handlers leave their dogs and proceed as instructed by the judge to an area approximately 25 feet away and in line of sight from their dogs. The stay is for three (3) minutes. When instructed by the judge, handlers should return in an orderly fashion to their dog's side and await the judge's command that the exercise is finished.

Exhibitors who have entered more than one class with the same dog are required to do the down stay for each class.

Judge's commands to the handlers are; Down your dogs, Leave your dogs, Return to your dogs, Exercise finished.

A dog shall be marked as failing if:

- Handler gives more than one stay command.
- Dog changes position from a down to a sit or a stand.
- Dog moves from the place where it was left.
- Dog barks or whines repeatedly.
- Rough placement of the dog.
- Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched.

OPTIONAL COURSE EXERCISES (choose any two):

1. Bridge
2. Figure eight
3. Additional distractions

POINT SYSTEM

Maximum points: 200

To receive a qualifying score you must:

1. Have received a score of 170 or better
2. Not fail any given exercise (judge's decision)
3. Not have been removed from any exercise by the judge
4. Negotiate all course elements

Each entrant will be timed but this is not a condition to qualify. The time will be used in the event of a tie score to determine placement.

SCORING

Point Deductions: Areas of, but not limited to, point deductions are:

1. Breaks stay commands during harnessing or at gate
2. Dog is uncomfortable or resists hitching to cart
3. Dog *initially* looks back at cart in a worried or fearful manner
4. Doesn't pull or move forward readily
5. Dog resists handler's commands or responds slowly, causing handler to repeat commands
6. Dog lacks smoothness during turns or stops (stops poorly)
7. Tight lead or hard rein pulls
8. Dog goes off course

9. Dog shies from a course element
10. Handler physically manipulates dog using his/her body or hands
11. Dog changes position, but does not change to a sit or stand position, during the group stay exercise

Failure to negotiate any one element or to receive at least half of the points allotted for any given exercise will result in an NQ despite an overall score of 170 or higher.

For all levels, the course remains the same with the exception that CS and CI competitors will load the 40 pound weight after harnessing and unload same prior to the down/stay. The CX dog will have handler sit and ride in the cart after harnessing and will exit the cart prior to the down/stay. The three levels will be divided into divisions as follows:

- CS (level one) on-lead
 - Division 1 CS single
 - Division 2 CS team
- CI (level two) off-lead
 - Division 3 CI single
 - Division 4 CI team
- CX (level three) driving
 - Division 5 CX single
 - Division 6 CX team

Ribbons will be awarded for qualifying scores and first through fourth place in all six divisions. A "High In Test" ribbon will be awarded to the highest score obtained for the day (considering all qualifying scores from the six divisions.) Single dogs will not compete for placements against team entries with the exception of the "High In Test" award.

ADMINISTRATION

Creation of the ARC Carting Committee: The ARC shall create a Carting Committee that will encourage and support Carting Tests approved by the ARC. The Committee will review and update guidelines and make them available to others wishing to hold a Carting Test. The Carting Coordinator, who shall be appointed by the ARC Board of Directors, will maintain records and issue ARC carting titles. The Board of Directors will establish fees, if any, to record and issue certificates. The Carting Coordinator will establish a procedure for processing requests for ARC approved Carting Tests. Tests that have not been approved in advance by the ARC Board of Directors will not be recognized and titles will not be issued.

Permission to Sponsor a Carting Test: Permission may be granted by the American Rottweiler Club Board of Directors to any ARC approved club or ARC approved individual(s) to hold a Carting Test and such approval must be in writing. Carting Tests are open to any breed capable of performing, based on the ARC carting test rules, or may be restricted to Rottweilers only. If open to other breeds, preference must be given to registered purebred Rottweilers if the number of entries exceeds the test limit.

Application: A letter of application to hold a carting test should be sent to the ARC Carting Coordinator three months before the actual carting test date and should include:

1. Name of the Carting Test sponsoring club or names of sponsoring individuals.
2. The date of the proposed Carting Test
3. The name and address of the selected site.
4. A sketch of the course layout (including identification of required elements and where they will be incorporated in the exercises.)
5. Total entry limits for the test
6. Name and address of the judge(s) and his/her qualifications for judging an ARC Carting Test.
7. Name, address, and phone number of the Carting Test Chairman, Secretary, and Course Director.
8. Names of additional personnel involved in the sponsor request.
9. Certification that all ARC Carting Test Rules will be followed and that the results of the test will be sent to the carting coordinator within two weeks after the test.
10. The guarantee that all equipment, personnel, and other required provisions will be available at the Carting test.
11. Certification that liability insurance will be in effect for the event
12. The signatures of the sponsoring Chairman and Secretary.

Course Director: The Course Director will be chosen by the sponsor. The Course Director shall have the responsibility of creating the course to fit the area chosen for the Carting Test. He/she will also prepare a sketch of the proposed course and relative terrain to be submitted to the ARC Carting Committee along with the request for permission to sponsor an ARC approved Carting Test. The sketch will show:

1. The sequence of the course exercises
2. A description of exercise
3. The path the course will follow

4. Where course elements will be incorporated
5. Terrain and slopes
6. Length of course from start to finish

The Course Director will ensure that the required elements of the competition will be incorporated into the exercises. The Course Director will also make sure the course is presented in a sequence that is logical and easy to follow and that all required equipment is available.

Course Equipment: The required equipment is sufficient cones or course markers to designate the direction of the course and to number the exercises. The Course Director must also have a 40 pound weight item that can be lifted and affixed to the carts of on-lead and off-lead entrants. Optional course exercises are not structured to size, only that reasonable judgment be given to accommodate a team of dogs, cart, and handler. The gate can be made of any material, as long as it can be opened and closed and have a four foot opening for dog and cart to pass through.

JUDGING

Judges must be approved by the ARC board of directors prior to any test. All judges must be thoroughly familiar with the current AKC Regulations and the ARC Carting Test Rules. A list of all ARC Carting Judges will be maintained by the ARC Carting Coordinator and will be available to any club or member upon request.

CARTING JUDGE REQUIREMENTS

Applying to Judge: Interested individuals must submit a written request to include name, address, phone number, and email address, if any and meet the following qualifications:

1. Training and handling of a dog to an ARC Carting Intermediate title or the equivalent in a Drafting event to include the date and the host club or association.
2. Training and handling of one or more dogs to a title in any of the following events: Obedience, Herding, Agility, from a recognized registry, including but not limited to, AKC, UKC, ASCA, or a BH or SchH title.
3. Verification as a Scribe for at least one (1) ARC carting test, preferably more.
4. Familiarity with AKC Rules and Regulations. Applicants are encouraged to acquire firsthand knowledge and experience by stewarding at an AKC event.
5. It is suggested that experience in evaluating and scoring by judging Obedience, Agility, and/or Rally at matches or official events is desirable.

Applicants should send a resume to the ARC Carting Coordinator for consideration. The resume should include a summary of the applicants carting experience, as an exhibitor and as a member of a host club committee, (e.g., test chair, test secretary, steward, course director, conducting classes, etc.). Include experience with AKC Regulations, and ARC Carting Test Rules, experience, if any, with evaluating/scoring dogs in at an official event or fun match, and any additional relevant information. Upon positive review of the application, the applicant will be approved to judge and will receive notification from the ARC Carting Coordinator. Any applicant should include a resume detailing the above experience and any other relevant information.

STEWARDS

Two additional personnel will be chosen by the sponsor to assist the judge and will be noted on the application for approval to hold an ARC approved Carting Test. One of these stewards will perform the duties of scribe to assist the judge with the marking of score sheets and the timing of each entrant. The second steward will be utilized according to the judge's discretion however, it must be noted that total responsibility for observing dogs and handlers during all portions of the test and total responsibility for scoring rests with the judge.